

# Wiltshire Tree Warden News

May 2015

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

Issue No.14

## *Message from Vicky*

[vicky.roscoe@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.roscoe@wiltshire.gov.uk) or 01225 718647

With the spring getting into its stride, May is the month that the Tree Council encourages everyone to take advantage of any sunny weather and go out for a walk in the woods!

This year's campaign theme, 'Grow Together', aims to encourage social cohesion through organising or taking part in activities taking place in local woods or around trees in the community, in parks, streets or gardens. Research has shown that family and community environments are much more harmonious and closely knit where the urban setting includes trees so we are inviting everyone to organise their own activities involving friends and neighbours to value and promote the importance of trees and woods in our everyday life. It can be anything from organising a walk in the woods, a bird watching competition to a tree spotting championship, we want people to go out, explore, be creative and take advantage of this resource that we so often take for granted.



West Woods Marlborough

If you are organising an event in your parish please get in touch.

## *News from Tree Wardens*

### **Tisbury Orchard**

Debbie Carter, Tisbury



In February 2014 a new Community Orchard was planted in Tisbury (Newsletter No. 10). Just six months later, on Saturday 20th September 2014, Carnival day in Tisbury, some children were seen swinging on the trees and snapping off branches. The children were identified and we hope it will not happen again. Seven of the ten damaged fruit trees have now been replaced, paid for by the Parish Council and are doing well. The other three are still alive, though rather odd shapes!

### **Why do I love trees?**

Peter Loxley-Smith, Steeple Ashton and Biss

I was born in a wood in 1943 and spent most of my teenage life camping in one. A tree is a source of life. We have used them for food, shelter, oxygen, tools, warmth, and power, and so much more. What is the point of planting them one may ask? They create a wild life corridor as well as all the above mentioned to name but a few. My background was one of survival. Food was scarce so we lived off the land. We ate anything that was available at the time. We collected eggs, honey, shot pigeons, ate rabbits, toadstools, mushrooms, kept pigs, etc. I must say

trees played a large part of our lives. I am not a puritan by some people's standards but looking on the good side, I have planted many hundreds of wonderful trees to give something back.

When I was a boy in 1945 we moved to Rood Ashton. My mother worked at the manor as did some of the family before her. I can remember the farmer selling trees on the estate to pay off his mortgage. It was a good job he did I suppose for not long after came the Dutch elm disease. Some said at the time other trees should be planted in their place. What a pity they ignored that good advice. However, we now have the Jubilee wood planted by the scouts and have given them much welcome help and advice on the many thousands of trees they have planted.

Vicky asked me how I have raised funds for tree planting; until last year I organized quizzes to raise money for stakes and tubes and gave some of my walking sticks and riding crops as prizes. My aim in life now is looking out for the wellbeing of the trees we have around us. Everywhere I look, developers are building ever closer to our ancient woodlands. That's a battle we should take up and defeat!

To conclude I am very proud to say that for many years I have had the privilege to be the Warden of [Biss Woods](#) for Gilbert Green, a keen local conservationist, until he gave the wood to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Thankfully they have kept me on as Warden.



Path through Biss Woods (WWT)

### **Ancient Tree Project**

*George & Jenny Lisle, The Donheads*

This project is being led by Steve Russell of Woodland & Countryside Management and an introduction will be taking place at Donhead St Mary Village Hall on Monday 18 May at 7.00pm (starting at 7.30pm). Anyone with an interest in trees and our local landscape would be welcome to join the community group. Do come along to hear about this exciting project and how you can get involved in finding out about, protecting and conserving the wonderful trees of the Donheads and Vale of Wardour. To set the scene, we have two great speakers:

Emma Townsend, Heritage and Landscape consultant from Tisbury, will provide an overview of the Historic Landscape Character of the Vale of Wardour and how it has changed through time. She will have a special emphasis on trees with a case study focusing on the Donheads and the heritage management implications and some solutions.



[Dr Alex Langlands](#), University of Winchester, will describe how the boundary clauses of ancient Anglo-Saxon charters in the Donheads and South Wiltshire provide a rich and detailed description of our landscape in the late first millennium. Landmarks such as stones, barrows, crosses and ditches all feature heavily but the most commonly mentioned landmarks are trees. As a consequence, we can not only gain a huge insight into both the spread of woodland cover in the early medieval period but also the role and function of trees symbolically in late Saxon society.

There will be a training day on Friday 12 June to identify and record ancient trees in the area. Please contact us if you would like to be involved. [jrhawk@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:jrhawk@globalnet.co.uk) or tel. 01747 828081.

### **Free Trees for community projects**

*Rick Gunning, Horningsham*

Rick is one of our most recent Tree Wardens and is a Director of Wessex Rural Crafts Ecology and Arboriculture. He is currently in the process of launching a planting scheme - partly to celebrate 21 years in business and partly due to the carbon footprint he's noticed following him around. After working out his carbon footprint (approx 18 tons per year) Rick is hoping to plant enough trees to more than compensate for this. Rick is looking for needy/worthy groups as recipients for trees, therefore if you have a site in mind and would like to take full

advantage of Rick's kind offer please get in touch with Vicky. Trees will be ordered and distributed on a first come first served basis, so please get in touch at the earliest opportunity to avoid disappointment.

## *Matters of Interest to Tree Wardens*

### **Latest activities**

In March Steve Russell of Woodland & Countryside Management led a group of Tree Wardens in Savernake Forest to study woodland archaeology. The morning was spent looking at an area of woodland to learn about what to look for and how to manage trees and woodland to protect archaeological features in woodland. For pictures and more details, look at past training on the [website](#).

### **Cranborne Chase Woodfair at Breamore House near Fordingbridge, Hants on 3 & 4 October**



[The Cranborne Chase Woodfair](#) is the largest regional Woodfair, a showcase celebrating woodlands and traditional rural life. Come and taste local food, have a go at a craft or activity you've never tried, learn something utterly unexpected and wonderful. This year's woodfair is even more inclusive and provides even more opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to have a go at something new. There will be everything from mobile sawmills to bronze age woodworking, falconry to furniture makers, timber frames to wood turning. Discover a treasure trove of local products from food and furniture to toys and games. If you're looking for a great day out for all the family, then this is it.

### **The Tree Council's Jubilee 'Diamond' Trees**

Unfortunately the book and the plaques to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee are still to materialise. We are told that the book is at the printers and that the plaques are almost ready to print but need to be assigned QR codes for each tree. The Tree Council are still awaiting the required information from some projects.

### **Pests and diseases**

The Forestry Commission England's Tree Health News, is a new publication that has been created due to the high demand for regular pest and disease updates. If you want to be kept up to date on the latest in pests and diseases please [sign up to the free newsletter](#).

Join the Rights of Way & Countryside Service's Tree and Woodland Officers for an **OPAL Tree Health National Survey** on Friday 29 May at Southwick Country Park from 3.30pm-5.30pm. You will be shown how to identify pests and diseases, and how to assess the health of your local trees. No experience or equipment is required – you will be given a tree survey pack to take away. Families welcome!

If you want to know more about the plant health risks in your area, the [UK Plant Health Risk Register](#) is a useful publicly available tool. New issues are identified each month and considered by the Plant Health Risk Group, a group of plant health experts from Defra, Fera, Forestry Commission and the Devolved Administrations. The Register is already being used to improve protection against some key threats, such as to support stronger EU legislation on the Emerald Ash Borer, the Bronze Birch Borer, Plane Wilt and Sweet Chestnut Blight to protect trees in this country.

### **Tree Planting Grants**

Applications are now open for Community Tree packs from the [Woodland Trust](#) which will be delivered in early November 2015. This is on-going for the foreseeable future.

## *Remember*

**Tree Care Campaign** 21 March - 21 September 2015

**Walk in the Woods** 1 May - 31 May 2015

**Seed Gathering Season** 23 September – 23 October

**National Tree Week** 28 November - 6 December 2015