

Chairman: Terry Smith **Co-ordinator:** Malinda Griffin

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Deadline for next issue 7th January 2019



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all our readers!**



New Committee Member

We welcome Eric Walker as a committee member. Eric has been trialling various methods of surveying trees over the last few months and, with assistance from other tree wardens, has completed a survey of the trees in St Mary's churchyard and other locations on Hayling Island. He has also been heavily involved with the trees around Long Copse Lane, Emsworth, where a housing development is planned, and has been liaising with both Hampshire County Council and Havant Borough Council to identify and map the trees for which those authorities are responsible and trees with TPOs.

Autumn Colour at The Plaza



Photo: Ralph Cousins

This Persian Ironwood tree (*Parrotia persica* *Vanessa*) at Havant Public Service Plaza was donated by Ralph Cousins three years ago.

'Vanessa' is a small, upright tree that provides year-round interest with attractive, flaking bark and clusters of red stamens on bare stems in late winter and early spring. Although it is related to witchhazel, the flowers are not fragrant.

The young foliage is red and bronze turning green for summer then producing spectacular autumn colour of bronze, shades of red/purple, followed by orange and finishing brilliant gold.

Homes Wanted for Whips

The majority of the whips obtained from OVO Energy have been distributed although Malinda still has about 30 each of English Oak, Beech and Hornbeam and a handful each of Silver & Downy Birch, Alder, Aspen and Grey Willow. The whips are approximately two feet tall. If any readers would like some for their gardens or know of other suitable locations or someone else who might like any or all of them, please let us know. The whips have a temporary home until February.

National Tree Week

Nore Barn Woods - Emsworth

On Friday 30th November The Friends of Nore Barn Woods held the last of three weekly afternoon work parties to complete a new blackthorn hedge. The ground was prepared by digging out brambles in a strip along the fence line while brambles nearer to the path were left untouched to prevent access and protect the new hedge.

Replacement blackthorn whips were planted to fill gaps in the hedge along the Wayfarers Walk and to thicken up part of the old hedge on the shore.



Hampshire Farm Meadow – Emsworth / Westbourne



On Saturday 1st December The Friends of Hampshire Farm Meadow planted a mixture of whips to fill gaps in hedges.

There was a 100% survival rate for the home-grown horse chestnuts planted at the beginning of the year.

The Bog - Purbrook

PAWARA Environment Group continued their programme of maintenance by spreading two large heaps of wood chips around the fruiting hedge at the Bog in Purbrook to suppress undergrowth. The hedge was planted in December 2014 with trees supplied by The Tree Council.



Somerstown - Portsmouth

Portsmouth and Southsea Tree wardens worked on two projects on Thursday 29th November. In the morning, a copse off Tangier Road was replanted with 100 whips with assistance from a small group of school children while bigger trees were planted by contractors.

In the afternoon, fruit trees and a fruiting hedge were planted outside Somerstown Adventure Playground as part of the Charles Dickens Orchard Trail. The work was continued the following day. This is part of a wider education project which will involve local garden groups, Food Portsmouth, Abundance Portsmouth and community nutritionists with the aim of compiling information packs for schools including maintenance and recipes using the produce.



Above

Replanting the copse off Tangier Road.

Right

Sara Lom (Chief Executive of The Tree Council) helping to plant a tree as part of the fruiting hedge outside Somerstown Adventure Playground.



Photos: Terry Smith

Trees for the Future

Emsworth Tree Wardens collected tree seeds from local woodlands during the early Autumn, ready for leading a Trees Seed Planting Afternoon with Year 6 pupils at Emsworth Primary School.

Head Teacher, Kate Fripp, provided peat-free compost, and the school's Gardening Club leader, Zoe Rough, helped us as the enthusiastic children chose what they wanted to plant from a choice of English or Holm Oak, Horse or Sweet Chestnut, Beech or Field Maple seeds.

There are now about 35 pots in a sheltered corner of the playground. They may look dormant and dull, but with luck each seed will be developing a strong tap root, and, around March, the children will see shoots with seed leaves.

Several healthy, self-sown Oak seedlings were also transplanted into large pots to grow on. These little trees had grown up among the flourishing trees planted some years ago by the Tree Wardens with pupils between the school playing field and the bank of the railway line.

The Tree Wardens look forward to continuing their long association with Emsworth Primary School, and will visit again for more tree activities in the spring.

Malinda Griffin

Tree Surveys – Eric Walker

Another couple of weeks and we should have completed the survey of the trees on Long Copse Lane, Emsworth. There is only one 'street tree' that Hampshire County Council is responsible for; the rest, a couple of hundred, including eleven individual TPO trees and one TPO area, are all privately owned. We were pleased have an authoritative statement that the 'Bat Copse' has a number of constituents indicating it is ancient woodland.

A start has been made on entering the data onto Treezilla, the emphasis being to survey the trees while the weather was good. Initially we are learning how to do it with some Hayling Island tree data. Looking at Treezilla, I am amazed at the number of new entries being made on a day-to-day basis. Most recently there are contributions from Dublin.

In 2020 there will probably be a major tree planting programme, so the hunt is on for places to plant the trees. Hampshire County Council has agreed to the planting of about a hundred hedging plants in March 2019 along the much used Hayling Billy Trail. Preparation of the ground for this planting is to be done this winter. I would like suggestions about mulch to be put around the plants once they are in. Earlier this year we got some wood chippings for the hedge plants after the plants had gone in, next year I would like to do it in a planned way.

I was vaguely aware of a problem with rhododendrons but had not realised that this native of Nepal is causing problems for the Forestry Commission with 3% of their woodland affected, also the National Trust and others. No wonder it gets such a bad press, see <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-4828608/Why-want-rhododendron-bush-gone.html>

The reason for raising this spectre is an area of neglected woodland on Hayling which has a significant number of rhododendrons. Could it be that we are asked to survey this 4 acre site with a view to rhodo clearance to help the bio-diversity once we have completed the Long Copse Lane job? I am told this is a job that requires a three year commitment. I know the clearance is more than a one man job.

We generally meet on a Thursday and are now looking expand our activities. If you or your friends are interested in trees in Havant or Hayling, please email Eric Walker on eric.walker377@gmail.com

New Member

John List - Horndean

Newsletter Contributions

Please submit newsletter contributions to hbctreewardens@gmail.com

Photographs illustrating articles or photographs on their own (with captions) would be appreciated. If you are not the photographer, please check you have permission and say who is so that credit can be given. To keep file sizes manageable, please avoid sending high resolution images. The ideal image size is 500KB or less.

Please also let us know if you have ideas for future articles or subjects you would like to see included.

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Membership of Havant Borough Tree Wardens

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in trees. We do not currently charge a membership fee and, although we need members who want to be involved in practical tasks or the running of the network, we also welcome supporters. If you would like to become a member, please request a membership application form by e-mail to hbctreewardens@gmail.com

Donations

If you would like to make a donation to Havant Borough Tree Wardens, payments can be made into our bank account.

Account No: 84937017
Sort Code: 55-70-34

Please include your name as a reference.