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In October we said goodbye to an old friend, a Monterey Pine in Mengham, see the September Issue of About Trees for the last sighting. "How old is that tree?" is a question we are frequently asked. Well, this tree stump has 102 rings (102 years, 1918). Were the seeds brought from America by troops as they came to Hayling Island joining in the First World War?

Is the tallest Monterey pine tree in the Borough now leaning? Will something be done to support it, very unlikely?

At the beginning of the 20th Century the UK's woodland coverage was at an all time low – just 5 per cent of total land area. You can see this on any countryside photos taken at the time. Now a hundred years old, the Forestry Commission was set up in 1919 to bring about reforestation and plan for the future of British woodland. Today the Forestry Commission estimates that 13 per cent of the UK is covered by woodland.

See <https://www.forestryengland.uk/100> for the history of the service and information on centenary celebrations.

In Westminster there is an [Early Day Motion 31](#), which is being promoted by all the parliamentary parties, calling for swift action on tree planting by the Government following recommendation by the Committee on Climate Change to deliver 19 per cent forest cover by 2050.



August 2019



October 2019

As anticipated in the September Issue of About Trees, the Wildflower Island group planted 2,500 bulbs: snowdrops, bluebell, crocus and wood anemones, plus some primroses, in mid-October in the copse close to Mill Rythe Junior school on Havant Road, Hayling (PO11 0PA). Wildflower seeds are to follow soon. (A diary date for March next year?)

Treezilla

Havant Cemetery

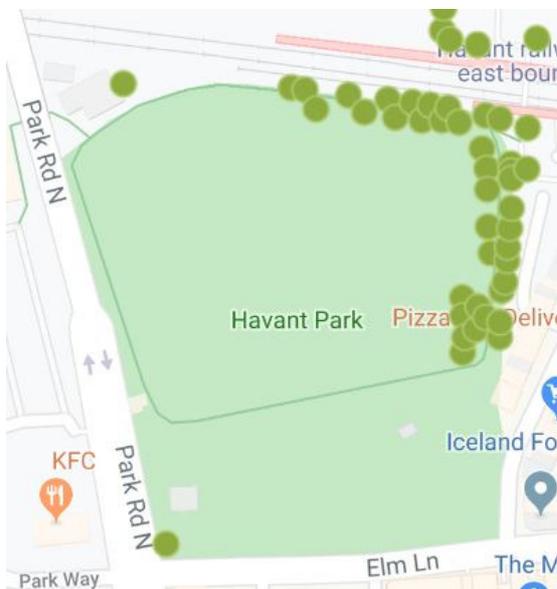


The mapping of trees in Havant Cemetery is now complete and 136 trees have been added to Treezilla. Each year these trees remove 29,317 kg of carbon dioxide and filter 1,071,459 litres of water.

The green dots indicate trees entered on Treezilla.

Havant Park

The mapping of trees in Havant Park is making good progress. Tree wardens have completed about half the park and the results have been uploaded to Treezilla : <https://www.treezilla.org>



Terry Smith measuring, Rob Foord checking the measurement height is correct at 1.3m, no doubt, with a wry comment.

Photo: Judy Valentine

Together with the tree survey data we have gathered over the last few months, we have input Street Tree data from Hampshire County Council (that we have edited) and mapping information from Havant Borough Council.

We received an accolade from the Open University this month:

"It continues to be a superb effort - over £1 million of ecosystem services accounted for and more than 13,000 trees (*have been entered*).

Thank you so much for your ongoing efforts. I'd really like to pop down at some point and meet your group. I think we could maybe support your work and share what you've done with other groups that might be interested in future."

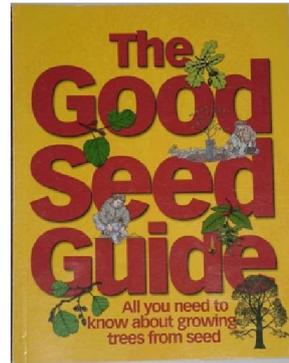
All the data for these Havant trees can be seen at:

https://www.treezilla.org/treezilla/map/?z=12/50.8405/-0.9907&q=%7B%22mapFeature.geom%22%3A%7B%22IN_BOUNDARY%22%3A%2268%22%7D%7D

Seed Planting for Future Trees and Hedges - Judy Valentine



Following on from the Tree Council's seed gathering season, we have been seed planting. Malinda Griffin supplied us with some copies of *The Good Seed Guide*; I believe she still has a few spare copies to give away. Most of the seeds had to be mashed and the outer fruit removed, a bit like a bird eating a berry? We then put the seeds in a peat-free compost mix to stratify, which means they will have one or two winters in the cold and when they start to sprout they will be potted up.



3rd Hayling Scouts Plant 800 Trees - Judy Valentine



We want to congratulate the 3rd Hayling Scouts for their brilliant effort planting about 800 sapling trees in Hayling Island this year. Sarah Bailey, a Scout leader with the group, heard about the Woodland Trust free trees for Schools and Communities and went about the task of getting more trees planted in Hayling. Their first site was the Oven Campsite in September 2018. Oven Campsite owners are also Scout leaders and were only too happy to help the group plant more trees on Hayling.

Left: New hedging at Oven Campsite.



Their second tree planting took place in March 2019. Stoke Fruit Farm offered the Scouts a field to plant 500 mixed native species tree whips. Sam Wilson of Stoke Fruit Farm then added a further 200 whips. A brilliant effort from all involved.

Tree Planting

HBTW will be planting another batch of trees from the Woodland Trust late November this year, mainly along the Hayling Billy Trail. We also have nearly 400 trees that we have grown from seed and a few others that came as donations. All these will need planting sites and readers are encouraged to let us know if they have any suitable places.

Woodland Management in The Queen's Inclosure 28th October 2019 – Terry Smith



Path clearance in The Queen's Inclosure.

Photo: Terry Smith

We had a successful first work party in the Queen's Inclosure with nine volunteers from various local conservation groups, including four tree wardens, plus the Forestry England Ranger who was very pleased with what was achieved. We cut both sides of the main path halfway around the woodland, removed some fly-tipped fence panels and an electric lawnmower and we collected two sacks of litter, mainly vodka bottles and beer cans.

We saw a variety of fungi including several partial rings of what looked like trooping funnel.

The task next time will be to finish cutting back the remainder of the main path with some coppicing. Next work party Monday 25th November (10.00am – 4.00pm).

Hayling Island Horticultural Society Show – Judy Valentine



Tree Wardens in Hayling joined with the newly formed Wildflower Island to run a stall at the Hayling Island Horticultural Society show in September. We talked to a lot of people and met Alan Mak (MP for Havant) who was keen to get involved with practical projects. Wildflower Island planted their first verge outside Mill Rythe School on 15th October.





Help brighten our
Autumn

Support us today and you can be the change we need this season

- Help us to make a real difference to our local community
- Sign up today for just £1 a week
- We can do so much more with your support
- As well as supporting the community, you could WIN up to £25,000!

To start supporting, visit:

www.havantlottery.co.uk

and search for: **Tree Wardens**



The Twinning Trees – Paul Fisher

The recently formed Hayling Island – Gorrion Twinning Association were planning events to celebrate the official twinning and exchange of charters in 1998. I was a member of the Association Committee and was engaged in the creation of the charters, with Jenny Paterson employing her calligraphic skills and local artist Ann Cunningham providing the gilt embellishment. It happened that Ann was Chair of the Friends of Hayling Trees and we hit upon the idea of donating a tree to our twin town of Gorrion to commemorate the event. She selected a 'Column Oak' as being an appropriate English gesture and generously offered to provide one to plant in Gorrion.



The Calvados apple tree in the grounds of Hayling Library.

It was then up to us to provide a suitable tree to plant on Hayling. I was chief organiser of the Paris to Hayling Cycle Ride and had formed good relationships with towns and villages en route. One in particular was the town of Cormeilles, where we had the first successful lunch event, which was to become the template for future lunch stops. Cormeilles is in the Calvados region of France and has its own local distillery to produce the fine spirit. In fact, some bars don't sell brandy at all, only providing Calva!

I had good relations with the owner of the Bar du Commerce, our lunch stop, where the road is closed for the day as we visit and he in turn had a close relationship with the Mayor, who asked the local distillery to provide a couple of Calvados apple trees. These were handed over with due ceremony on our annual visit in July 1998 by the owner of the distillery, with the Mayor in attendance, as well as our local MP, David Willetts, on his only ride with us. They were transported in a support van back to Hayling.

The planting of the chosen 5ft apple tree sapling in the grounds of the Hayling Library was a key event in the official twinning ceremony in August 1998, David Willetts shovelling the first soil into the prepared hole with a silver spade provided by Hayling Hardware. In attendance were Jean Marc Allain, Mayor of Gorrion, and Havant Mayor, Frank Pearce. Andrew Skeet, the Havant Council Arboriculturalist, had prepared the ground and drainage for the new tree and Jo Stevenson, of the Friends of Hayling Trees, pledged to care for it during its early years. An engraved marble plaque marks the tree.

Right: Jean Marc Allain (Mayor of Gorrion) and Frank Pearce (Mayor of Havant) in front of the Calvados apple tree.



In Gorrion, the planting of the small oak was a simpler ceremony, attended by members of both Associations, with interpreter and local resident Colin Ashby rather amusingly referring to the daffodil bulbs planted around the tree as onions! Gorrion didn't officially ratify the twinning until 2000.

All are happy to note that both trees are prospering magnificently, with the Calvados tree providing masses of lovely edible apples, free to anyone to pick. I cooked a lovely blackberry and apple crumble, using the fruit recently. The column oak, in Place Hayling in Gorrion, is a brilliant example of its type and now over 20 feet tall!

Left: The Column Oak in Gorrion.

Petersfield Tree Location Project – Andy Moffat

A survey to identify places in Petersfield for planting additional trees

Call for Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help with a community survey to identify where additional trees can be planted on land owned and/or managed by public bodies, notably the Town, District and County Councils. This community-led project is intended to engage those who live in Petersfield and those who work in and visit the town. It will be similar to the original i-Tree Survey in that citizen involvement is expected to generate publicity for more trees, 'ownership' of existing and newly planted trees, and the support of national, regional and local authorities and other organisations.

Our Petersfield i-Tree Survey was carried out in 2016 by 43 community volunteers led by Petersfield Society with the support of Petersfield Town Council (PTC), East Hampshire District Council (EHDC), Hampshire County Council (HCC) and South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). The Survey report, *Petersfield's Trees: their importance and value*, was published in 2017* (see article in the August 2018 issue of *About Trees*). Since then, interest in Petersfield's trees has grown with visits to Petersfield by Lord Gardiner and Dr Thérèse Coffey from Defra.



Petersfield Society has already started to identify places for more trees to be planted. It is important now, however, that this work is extended across the parish and completed so that appropriate agencies charged with tree care in Petersfield can be properly informed. Identifying public realm tree planting opportunities is essential for advantage to be taken of public grants for tree planting in towns, for example the Government's Urban Tree Challenge Fund.

The purpose of the project is to identify clearly where new trees can be planted. In addition, the mobilisation of volunteers around the town can be used to identify where traditional grass mowing, for example of roadside verges, could be relaxed in favour of a more biodiverse approach involving wildflower seeding or the establishment of additional types of vegetation. Opportunities for new tree planting will be identified using guidance including, for example, by HCC in *The Companion Document to Manual for Streets* which gives precise information on where trees are permitted, taking account of, for example, motorist sightlines.

Volunteer surveyors will use large-scale paper maps to enter information. A Geographic Information System (GIS) will be used to store the information and provide the basis for analysis to help the community and authorities improve their decision-making. Volunteers will be trained in collecting and recording survey information and allocated areas to survey in teams of between two and four people.

A report of the Project and its findings will be published including on the Petersfield Society website. The report will be circulated to national, regional and local authorities and organisations. A Community Tree Forum is planned to bring together interested parties and discuss how best to implement the survey findings and recommendations to increase the number of trees in Petersfield.

The Project will be managed by Dr Andy Moffat, a Trustee of the Society, supported by members of our Green Infrastructure Group. We expect to start the survey in November. Publication of the project report is planned for Spring 2020.

Please register your interest to be a volunteer surveyor at trees@petersfieldsociety.org.uk

**Petersfield's Trees: their importance and value* has now been re-printed. Copies can be purchased for £10 from the Town Visitor Centre in The Square and direct from the Petersfield Society.

Tree of the Year

The Tree of the Year for England is the Allerton Oak in Calderstones Park, Liverpool which received more than 34% of the 11,000 votes cast in the Woodland Trust's annual competition. A sycamore growing on the walls of Colchester Castle in Essex came second and the Dragon Tree on the Isle of Wight, a fallen oak that re-rooted and kept growing, was third.

The Allerton Oak is mentioned in the Domesday Book and a medieval Hundred Court is believed to have met under its branches as there was no courthouse. The large crack down the side of the tree is said to have formed in 1864 when the Lotty Sleigh, a ship carrying 11 tons of gunpowder, exploded while moored in the Mersey nearby. The ensuing shockwave smashed thousands of windows throughout Liverpool, and was heard over 30 miles away.

Allerton Oak's boughs are propped up with poles. Liverpool City Council and Mersey Forest are investing £80,000 in a new propping mechanism for the tree, with built-in flexibility to adapt as the tree continues to grow. The Allerton Oak will represent the UK in the European Tree of the Year contest which begins in February.

The other winners were:

Northern Ireland – The Invisible Tree, Rostrevor

This oak tree at the entry to Rostrevor Oakwood was excluded from a survey and report supporting the construction of apartment blocks and an underground car park within a few metres of its roots and branches, hence the name.

Scotland – The Last Ent of Affric, Glen Affric

The only ancient elm in the Glen, possibly a remnant of an ancient forest, was discovered by Forest and Land Scotland and Trees for Life staff. It is now surrounded by younger trees as part of a project to restore native woodland to the Highlands.

Wales – The Old Sweet Chestnut of Pontypool, Pontypool Park

This hollow tree is around 400 years old and one of many sweet chestnut trees in the park which was owned by the Hanbury family until it was given to the people of Pontypool in the early part of the 20th century.



The Overall Winner

The Allerton Oak in Calderstones Park, Liverpool



The Welsh Tree of the Year

The Old Sweet Chestnut of Pontypool, Pontypool Park

Bird Boxes

Clean your bird boxes and check if any more boxes are required for next year.

Bee hotels are best cleaned in the spring after all of the eggs have hatched and bees have emerged, but if you see a tunnel not being used, you can clean it out now.

Diary Dates

Thursday 7th November - Tree Warden Training

6.00pm - The Newlease Room, Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant, PO9 2AX

- ◆ Jamie Gargett, Arboriculture Manager for Havant BC and East Hampshire DC, will talk about Tree Preservation Orders and the Law.
- ◆ Jon Stokes, Director of Trees, Science & Research for The Tree Council will give a talk: Planting Three Billion Trees

The training will be open to HBTW Tree Wardens and supporters as well as our local Councillors.

Thursday 14th November – Mayoral Tree Planting – Mini Orchard

10.00am Hermitage Open Space, Purbrook Way, Leigh Park, PO9 3RU

11.00am Mayor to plant tree.

Trees provided by Havant & District Horticultural Society, planting arranged by Friends of the Hermitage Stream.

Wednesday 20th November - Talk on the Proposed Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir **7.30pm St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Padnell Road, Cowplain, PO8 8DZ**

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, South Downs Group

Non-members welcome. Admission £3 donation including refreshments.

Contact Deryn Hawkins on 02392 598000 or website:

<https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/events/2019-11-20-havant-thicket-winter-storage-reservoir>

Thursday 21st November - Hedge Planting, Hayling Billy Trail

Depends on delivery being received and the weather being mild.

Saturday 23rd November – Sunday 1st December 2019 - National Tree Week

Sunday 24th November - National Tree Charter Day

Monday 25th November – HBTW Work Party in The Queen's Inclosure

10.00am – 4.00pm

We will finish cutting back the main path circling the woodland and start coppicing.

Meet at the main entrance in Park Lane, Cowplain, PO8 8AB at 10.00am.

Parking in Park Lane (please do not park on the verge) or in Winscombe Avenue.

Please bring gloves, a packed lunch and refreshments. Boots or stout shoes are recommended.

Please also bring a high visibility vest if you have one.

Saturday 30th November – HBTW Woodland Walk

10.00am – 12.00pm Battins Copse and Great Copse, Leigh Park

Meet at 10.00am in the car park of Leigh Park Baptist Church, Stockheath Road, Havant PO9 5NT

Newsletter Contributions

Please submit newsletter contributions to hbctreewardens@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: 23rd November 2019

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 250KB or less.

If you embed images in documents, please also send the images as attachments.

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

Would you like your own copy of this newsletter?

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to request your own copy, please send an e-mail to hbctreewardens@gmail.com

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 or download it from our website.

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.