



About Trees

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Topical Tree Dressing – Terry Smith

Not the most attractive tree after a serious haircut, this oak in Elizabeth Road, Waterloooville has been decorated by a resident with a “Stay Safe / Thank You Frontline Workers” theme to entertain the children at a nearby nursery. The components have been created from waste plastic and driftwood, painted to add colour, and is regularly added to and changed. The bench in front of the tree has been incorporated into the design with a rainbow on the back rest.

The tree is in what used to be a field and the bulge in the trunk is the result of a farmer protecting the tree from livestock with a fence.



Above: The oak tree in Elizabeth Road.



Right: Tree decorations and themed bench.



Above and right: Close-up of the decorations.



Young Tree Champions Project – Judy Valentine

St Alban's C of E (Aided) Primary School in West Leigh has become part of the Tree Council's 'Young Tree Champions' project. The work is led by Julie Newman, a teacher at the school. Julie is a keen wildlife gardener with an interest in inspiring people to connect with nature. The children have chosen to focus on 'Biodiversity and the state of nature', together with 'Health and wellbeing' as they felt these themes are entwined: 'Without biodiversity, there can be no health.' (Isla) The project will improve the school grounds, making a tree trail and spreading the message of the power of trees and nature.

As part of the scheme, the school has received five trees from the Tree Council. Participating Young Tree Champions Schools that sign up to a club account are able to apply for some exclusive resources, worth over £1,500, to deliver a Young Tree Champion project in their school. Resources include five beautiful trees, a tech kit including a microscope camera and VR headset and tailored Speakers Trust teacher training and pupil workshops.



Pupils sprinkling mycorrhizal fungi powder on the roots of one of the new trees to enhance root growth and aid the uptake of nutrients from the soil.



The newly-planted tree.

Photos: Julie Newman

You can find more information on the scheme here.

<https://youngtreechampions.org/about-young-tree-champions/>

You can follow the school's progress on twitter [@msnewman1001](https://twitter.com/msnewman1001)

Hayling Update – Eric Walker

With the clock going forward, spring is here and April is going to see a further two deliveries of tree whips for Hayling Island. These deliveries were delayed by the Covid-19 restrictions and, when they arrive at the end of April, the question will be how fast we can plant them.

Some of these trees are going to Mengham Junior School and some to North Common. This is all very exciting because the school has been looking forward to the planting and I am hoping to get them recording what they put in and what has been planted in earlier years.

We have permission from Havant Borough Council to plant a further seven areas on North Common as funding allows.

Mistletoe Trees



Left: Following Malinda's article on mistletoe in the February issue of *About Trees*, this photo of mistletoe in a crab apple street tree was spotted in Corbett Road, Waterloo. The photo was taken in February and the greenery is all mistletoe.

Photo: Adele Mallows



Right: This tree festooned with bunches of mistletoe was seen in Anne Crescent, Waterloo.

Photo: Terry Smith

Warblington Cemetery



Above: English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) in flower right on the shore. Both male and female reproductive parts are contained within the same flower.

Left: A spectacular display of Italian Alder (*Alnus cordata*) catkins in Warblington Cemetery.

Photos taken 2nd March by Julie Bolton

Waste of Space



Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust has a 'Waste of Space' campaign to identify small areas of unused land in towns and cities that could be transformed into spaces for wildlife and contribute to a Nature Recovery Network.

The photos show examples of plots that could be transformed with help from HIWWT, subject to identifying the landowner and obtaining permission. If you spot any sites that may be suitable, please add them to the map on the website. 122 unloved areas have been identified, so far, including two on Hayling Island and 21 in Portsmouth. <https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/waste-space>



Trees for Streets



Following the article in the March issue of 'About Trees', we have received 21 suggestions for sites that may be suitable for additional street trees. The suggestions will all be passed to Hampshire Highways for consideration. If you see other verges with the potential for trees, it is not too late to add them to the list using this form: <https://forms.gle/54rkMwYiKLiXSFKm6>

Generally, verges less than one metre wide will not be suitable. There may be other reasons why a location is not suitable, for example, underground services, overhead cables, proximity to gateway, sightline at junction or verge used for parking. Please refer to the article in the March issue for more information.

Photos: Terry Smith

How Not To ...

Plant a Hedge



This hedge was intended to be a replacement for vegetation removed when a housing development was constructed on a school playing field in Stakes Road, Purbrook. The whips looked healthy until a recent strong wind blew some of them over and the planting technique used became obvious. The plants had been grown in pots and the roots were placed in a shallow scrape. Some of those whips are now dead. This is the third attempt at planting this hedge.

Photo: Terry Smith

Treat a Tree

This otherwise healthy whitebeam in a front garden near Sandy Point, Hayling Island has been reduced to a column for fairy lights, one of two to receive the same treatment. Do the owners know that trees can increase the value of properties? By the same logic, this action has reduced the 'kerb appeal' and hence the value of theirs.

Photo: Malinda Griffin



How To ...

Help Stag Beetles



Standing dead wood and logs along the footpath from The Parchment (off South Street) to Park Road South, Havant which Peter passes quite often on his daily exercise rides.

Dead wood is essential habitat for some fungi which help to break it down and for beetle larvae. The centre of large logs have a stable temperature which enables larvae to survive cold winters. Stag Beetles, in particular, dig down to lay their eggs on large dead roots and the underground remains of dead tree trunks. It is worth bearing this in mind when deciding whether a tree stump really needs to be ground out.

Photo: Peter Wallbank

Park Community School



Above: This fruiting hedge was planted as screening from the footpath by pupils at Park Community School in November 2016 with help from Jon Stokes of The Tree Council and Havant Borough Tree Wardens. There was a much higher success rate than anticipated and, currently, lots of early blossom from the blackthorn, so we must have done a good job.

Photo: Sue Parish



Tree Planting at Hampshire Farm Meadows

Right: One of two Field Maples planted by Neil and Cath Mant at Hampshire Farm Meadows. The trees, together with two oaks, were purchased by Emsworth Tree Wardens from sales of their Emsworth Tree Trail book. (Photo: Neil & Cath Mant)

Portsmouth Tree Planting



Portsmouth and Southsea Tree Wardens have continued their tree planting programme.

On Sunday 7th March, Jon Snow, Dennis David and Pauline Powell planted some hazel whips and a small greengage tree in Hilsea Fruiting Hedge.

The following Sunday a Golden Beech tree was planted in Stag Woods in memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore, NHS fund raiser extraordinaire.

Left: Jon Snow with the Golden Beech. (Photo: Pauline Powell)

European Tree of the Year 2021

The results of the European Tree of the Year competition, a contest to find the most lovable tree with a story that can bring the community together, now in its eleventh year, have been announced.

1st	The Millennial Carrasca of Lecina, Spain	104,264 votes
2nd	The thousand-year-old plane tree of Curinga, Italy	78,210 votes
3rd	Ancient Sycamore Tree, Russia	66,026 votes
11th	The Survivor Tree (Rowan), UK (Scotland)	31,197 votes

The Millennial Carrasca of Lecina



The winner is a 1,000 year old Holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) in the small town of Alto Aragón with only 13 inhabitants near the city of Huesca in north-eastern Spain. According to legend, witches used to dance and celebrate around the tree. People still feel a connection with the tree and continue to use it for their celebrations.

The Thousand-Year-Old Plane Tree of Curinga

The Curinga plane tree (*Platanus orientalis*), thought to have been planted by Basilian monks who arrived in Calabria more than a thousand years ago and built the hermitage of Sant'Elia, is the largest plane tree in Italy. Its trunk is completely hollow and the opening is more than three metres wide giving the feeling of being inside an incredible woody cave.



Ancient Sycamore Tree



This 284 year old East sycamore tree (*Platanus orientalis*) is one of two outside the Juma mosque in Derbent in the Republic of Dagestan, Russian Federation. Derbent is the southernmost and claims to be the oldest city in Russia dating to the 8th century BC, making it one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Dagestan translates as "land of the mountains".

It is said that in the eighteenth century, Nadir Shah, the Persian ruler and general, looked after the sprouts of the sycamore and, later, the writer Aleksandr Bestuzhev-Marlinsky composed his works while admiring the giant which still features in poetry and paintings.

European Tree of the Year is organised by the Environmental Partnership Association (EPA) a consortium of six foundations from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia supporting community based projects whose goal is to protect the environment and support local communities and society.

New Regulations to Address Threat From Xylella

New regulations have been introduced to improve plant biosecurity and reduce the risk to GB of *Xylella fastidiosa* (Xylella) - a bacterium transmitted exclusively by xylem fluid feeding sap insects that causes disease in a wide range of woody commercially grown plants such as grapevine, citrus, olive and several species of broadleaf trees widely grown in the GB, as well as many shrubs and herbaceous plants. Xylella can infect more than 500 species of plant causing leaf scorch, wilt, die-back and may lead to plant death. There is no known cure for the disease.



Xylella is not known to be present in GB, but is continuing to spread in Europe with outbreaks of the disease occurring in Italy, France, Spain, Germany and Portugal. The long latency period of Xylella means that, without additional requirements, it could be carried into uninfected countries via imports of plants, long before the infection is identified.

Left: Ancient olive tree showing advanced Xylella infection.

The existing requirements for importing high-risk plants from countries where Xylella is not known to occur will be retained, including annual official inspection with sampling and testing of the plants concerned.

New requirements will apply to those countries where Xylella is known to be present and will include inspections of the place of production and the surrounding area, testing, pre-export inspections and a one-year quarantine period prior to import.

The Official Controls and Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) Regulations 2021 are available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2021/136>

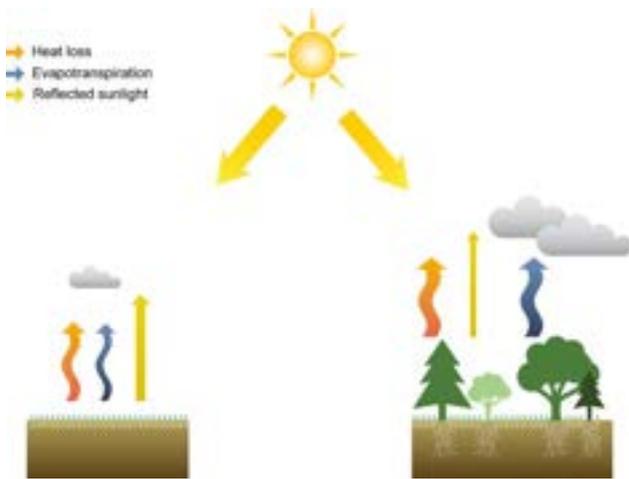
Forest Research Launches Climate Change Factsheet Series

Forest Research has launched the first in a series of factsheets exploring the effects of climate change on our trees and woodlands.

The factsheets showcase the breadth of research carried out by Forest Research, sometimes over decades, into how trees and forests are facing the challenges of climate change, and actionable insights into how trees and woodlands can help mitigate the effects of climate change. Although the factsheets are aimed at practitioners, they are easy to understand and useful to anyone who would like an introduction to the principles involved.

The first four factsheets are:

- ◆ Climate Change and Forests: How do woodlands and forest affect the climate?
- ◆ Climate Change, Flooding and Forests: How can forestry help reduce flooding?
- ◆ Peatlands, Forestry and Climate Change: What role can forest-to-bog restoration play?
- ◆ Climate Change and Biodiversity: Can biodiversity help our woodlands in a changing climate?



Images: Forest Research

The full factsheet series can be viewed or downloaded from the Forest Research website.
<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/?search=&page-type=publications&publication-type=cc-series>

More factsheets in the series will be published throughout 2021.

Forest Research is Great Britain's principal organisation for forestry and tree-related research and is internationally renowned for the provision of evidence and scientific services in support of sustainable forestry. www.forestresearch.gov.uk @Forest_Research

Diary Dates

Tuesday 20th April 8.00pm – 9.00pm - Free Online Presentation
Urban Insects - Help us Help Them in 2021
by Earthwise Aware

Come see what volunteer citizen scientists saw, discovered, and recorded in our cities this past year. Because insects are understudied, this also means that there is a ton that we can do to help. Our growing community of citizen scientists and volunteers demonstrate this continuously and we are continuing the programme this year. Join us and learn how you can help.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/urban-insects-help-us-help-them-in-2021-tickets-145759708211?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch&keep_tld=1

Wednesday 21st April 6.00pm – 7.00pm
The Climate Imperative: Meeting the Moment - Free Online Seminar

Research leaders around the world believe that the next decade will require unprecedented, powerful, action to curb greenhouse gas emissions and avoid the most catastrophic climate impacts. Join us online for a special Earth Day conversation as Jeff Berardelli, CBS News Meteorologist, turns the spotlight on Alex Halliday, Director of Columbia University's Earth Institute; and Maureen Raymo, Interim Director of Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-climate-imperative-meeting-the-moment-tickets-149702583457?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch&keep_tld=1

**Thursday 22nd April 12.00 – 1.30pm - Free Online Seminar
A Deep Look into Earth Day 2021: The Changing Climate of Our Natural World**

Hosted by Kit Pogliano, Dean of the Division of Biological Sciences, UC San Diego. In recognition of Earth Day, researchers will offer a range of perspectives on how the climate, human activities and other forces interconnect with our natural world. Hear from leading scientists on renewable materials that are paving the path to a sustainable future; the value of nature reserves as living laboratories; the benefits of immersing yourself in nature to form an “Earth Connection;” and the impacts of rising CO₂, temperature and drought on plants. Join us to hear fresh perspectives on understanding and conserving Planet Earth.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-deep-look-into-earth-day-2021-the-changing-climate-of-our-natural-world-registration-148834914235?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch&keep_tld=1

Monday 26th April 10.00am - 4.00pm Solitary Bee Conservation Work

We will finish clearing encroaching vegetation to preserve nest habitat for solitary bees. Please bring a packed lunch, refreshments, gloves and a high visibility vest if you have one. Hundred Acres, North Boarhunt
Maximum six volunteers.
Please contact Terry Smith to book a place. tjs.oaktrecottage@gmail.com

**Wednesday 28th April 7.00pm – 8.00pm - Free Online Presentation and Q&A
Nature's Best Hope with Doug Tallamy: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard**



Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can—and must—take to reverse declining biodiversity and will explain why we, ourselves, are nature’s best hope.

Space is limited, so registration is required!

Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 103 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 40 years.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/natures-best-hope-with-doug-tallamy-tickets-146485882217?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch&keep_tld=1

Saturday 1st May 2021 10.00am – 12.00 Friends of Hampshire Farm Meadows Work Party

Details to be confirmed.
Maximum six volunteers.
For more information and to book a place: hfmfriends@gmail.com

Newsletter Contributions

Please submit newsletter contributions to hbctreewardens@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: 23rd April 2021

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. <https://groups.tcv.org.uk/havantboroughtreewardens/>

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.

Havant Borough Community Lottery

You can also support us through the Havant Borough Community Lottery. You have the chance to win up to £25,000, plus additional prizes in special draws, and we receive 50p from every £1 ticket. A further 10p is paid into a community fund and grants for specific projects are distributed from the fund to eligible good causes every six months.

<https://www.havantlottery.co.uk/support/havant-borough-tree-wardens>