



About Trees

Issue No 39

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This Month's Editor: Terry Smith



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In this Issue	Page No
HBTW Co-ordinator	2
New Members	2
Developing a Local Memorial Arboretum	2
Hayling Update	3
Hedgerows in Hayling	3
Tree works along Purbrook Way	4
Queen's Inclosure	4
Tournerbury Woods Planning Application Refused	5
Petersfield Community Tree Location Survey	7
Biodiversity Rules Found Wanting	9
Diary Dates	10

HBTW Co-ordinator

With immediate effect, Malinda will be taking a six-month break from Co-ordinator duties for health reasons. We would like to thank Malinda for her dedication and hard work over several years. We wish Malinda well and look forward to welcoming her back early next year.

During Malinda's absence Judy Valentine will stand in as Acting Co-ordinator and can be contacted at: hbctreewardens@gmail.com

New Members

Amanda Miller - Purbrook
Carina Phoenix – Havant

Developing a Local Memorial Arboretum - Emsworth Tree Wardens by Brendan Gibb-Gray

Tree Wardens around the Borough will know how difficult it to find space in the public realm to plant a tree in memory of a loved one or indeed to find space to have a memorial bench dedicated in the same way. Whilst I was a district councillor I was contacted on many occasions by residents asking for help in securing a suitable site, but investigations showed very few (if any) available.

The Emsworth Tree Wardens discussed this at their meetings and in 2019 it was decided to explore with the Council the possibility of land at Hampshire Farm Meadows being allocated to a memorial copse or something similar. We consulted with residents through the good offices of the Emsworth Residents' Association and the vast majority of respondents suggested a memorial arboretum. Covid-19 severely hampered our plans, but earlier this year we identified a part of the meadow, to the north-east of the community orchard, and obtained HBC's initial consent to develop the idea further. This is a huge step forward, but there is considerable work to do before the project can become a reality.



Orchard at Hampshire Farm Meadows



Arboretum site.

Photos: Yvonne Copeland

In order to receive donations from residents for trees, or grants from appropriate bodies, it will be necessary to form a charity. Support of as many community groups as possible will be sought including contacting the neighbouring village of Westbourne. We are delighted that their parish council is enthusiastic about the proposed project. Most of our tree wardens are getting on in years so it will be important to attract younger residents to manage the charity and ensure the arboretum project is sustainable in the longer term. Again, we hope to use the offices of The Ems newspaper to appeal to the good burghers of Emsworth and Westbourne to take a hand in steering the project in the coming years.

It seems that HBC and others intend developing a “memory wood” at Havant Thicket which is commendable, but the Thicket is rather remote from many of the communities around the Borough and residents will appreciate a local place of peace and quiet to reflect on the memories associated with friends and relatives no longer with us.

The land currently earmarked for the arboretum will eventually hold between 60 and 70 trees, most of them specimens of different native varieties, and also allow a wild flower meadow to develop on the site. It should be a place of beauty and reflection to the benefit of all in the communities either side of the county border. This exciting project has at its kernel the love of trees that all tree wardens have, and an awareness of local people’s needs, including improving our local environment by planting many more trees.

Hayling Update – Eric Walker



In July Tony Athill and I completed the survey of the trees at Mengham Junior School and the data is now ready to update the Treezilla App.

Tony has number tagged all the trees we surveyed. Surprisingly some of the tags were removed and this was the case some years ago when the trees in the park were also tagged. With help from the Hayling Island Men’s Shed with suitable number punches, and some blank discs, replacements have been made and fixed this time with two aluminium nails.

Left: Tony is trying to identify the tree using his smartphone. Generally, he uses two Apps to get a consensus view of what he is looking at. We would be interested how other App-users are getting on. (Photo: Eric Walker)

Havant Mayor planted a Flowering cherry in April 2018 and, to us, it looks as if it has been run over, though how with the road closed is a mystery.



Flowering cherry planted in Hayling Park by the Mayor of Havant in April 2018.



The flattened tree. (Photos Eric Walker)

Hedgerows in Hayling – Judy Valentine

It was disappointing to see another section of hedgerow removed from the east facing section of the Parkdean Caravan site on Hayling Island. About two years ago a large section was removed to improve the views from the caravans. I’m worried that this is now going to be a trend and that this extensive hedgerow will become significantly degraded. I’ve sent an email to the Parkdean headquarters to ask if they can prevent further loss of the hedgerow.



The section of hedge removed recently



The section removed two years ago

Tree works along Purbrook Way

Hampshire Highways have given instructions for tree works along the north side of Purbrook Way between the gated track on the south side of Johnston's Coppice and the A3(M) roundabouts, as circled in red below.



This work is both for highway clearance pruning and also to remove young ash trees growing on the top and face of the embankment as most of these ash trees are already showing signs of ash dieback infection. The work should be carried out by contractors by the end of September, provided they are able to book road space.

Queen's Inclosure – Terry Smith

Dens were popular again last month; Pam and Caleb had already dismantled one around a yew tree and removed some materials, including a ladder.



Remnants of the first den.
(Photo: Terry Smith)

When we arrived, branches had been spread around the edge of the clearing, reminding me of an African kraal. A wide pit had been dug and cement had been added to part of the base; it was not clear why, but it was the right size and shape for a shed. Our first task of the day was to fill in the pit. We took the opportunity to part bury some of the rotting wood to encourage beetles. The original idea was to dig some deeper holes for the wood, but we changed our minds when we discovered we were digging into clay and it probably wasn't ideal for beetles. We included branches and left them partly out of the hole, leaving gaps that small creatures could hide in, and piled clay from the hole on top.

The next job was to dismantle a swing seat that had been stolen from a neighbouring garden and move it to the roadside for collection.



Dismantling the swing seat.
(Photo: Terry Smith)



The second den.
(Photo: Terry Smith)



White Admiral
(Photo: John Robinson)

On the way to the winter pond we passed another large, but less elaborate den. Sticks and large branches had been rested against and laid on a forked horizontal yew branch. Although the supporting branch was substantial, Pam was concerned that heavy branches could fall on anyone using the den and cause serious injury. We took the den apart and stacked the branches ready for Caleb to cut up with a chainsaw to prevent re-use.

Our final job before lunch was to remove lumps of concrete from the winter pond and pile mud on the bundles of wood we used to reinforce the bank. For the afternoon session we continued digging out laurel from the perimeter of the wood and spotted a white admiral that obliged us by settling low down on a bramble leaf for a better look and a photograph.

Tournerbury Woods Planning Application Refused

On 25th June this year Havant Borough Council gave notice that the planning application for Tournerbury Woods Wedding and Events venue (APP/21/00006) was refused. The application has recently gone to appeal.

Tournerbury Wood is privately owned. Hayling Island has no public woodland. It is a mixture of semi-natural broad-leaved woodland within Saxon earthworks (The Bury) with adjoining broad-leaved plantation woodland and secondary woodland (Tournerbury Plantation) established on former open ground in the late 19th Century. There is a small area of improved grassland within the woodland. In the south-eastern corner of the site the woodland habitats open out into amenity grassland around Woods Cottage. Further to the south-west, the woodland opens out into a small area of saltmarsh. Scattered scrub has established along the south-eastern edge of the site.

The site lies within Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site. Tournerbury is also designated as a unit of the Chichester Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is the subject of a longstanding management agreement between the applicant and Natural England. In addition, the eastern part of the site lies adjacent to the Solent Maritime Special Area for Conservation (SAC).



Image: Google

Havant Borough Tree Wardens submitted objections although not as a consultee and focused on

- ◆ Noise, light disturbance, increased recreational disturbance & waterborne pollution.
- ◆ The issue of identification of Ancient Woodland, and surveying for Ancient and Veteran trees was also raised.

Environmental consultees who responded on environmental issues included:

Natural England - Raised many concerns, but concluded after new protective measures were put forward by the company that they had No objection subject to mitigation.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy maintained their objection, including the impact of artificial lighting to wildlife during hours of darkness/night.

Hampshire County Council Specialist Environment Services Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Again, many concerns but concluded in consultation with Natural England that the proposed works as submitted will not result in impacts to the integrity of the international designated sites.

Arboricultural Officer for Havant Borough Council

Having visited the site and read the Arb Method Statement (AMS) the Arb officer was satisfied that the mitigation proposed so the trees are not negatively impacted upon were adequate. Should permission be granted for this application, he requested that the Arb Method Statement set out in the submitted report is conditioned and adhered to. No arboricultural objection.

The Planning Officer's final summary report recommended the application be refused. The list of reasons for refusing planning permission did not however centre on environmental issues. The report (dated 25th June 2021) summarises all the issues and can be read by searching on the Havant Planning Portal for APP/18/00943.

<https://planningpublicaccess.havant.gov.uk/online-applications/>

The Officer's recommendations were accepted, and permission refused.

Having regard to the nature of the activities being applied for, which include celebratory and social gatherings into the late evening; the high number of participants proposed; and the limitations of the access track which do not allow for two-way flow over all of its length through the adjoining Tournerbury Farm holding, the Local Planning Authority considers that it is not appropriate in planning terms for the wedding and events venue to rely on this route. To do so would bring an ongoing risk of noise and disturbance to occupiers of the Farm dwellings; and the risk of conflict between visitor movements and the safe and satisfactory functioning of the farmyard activities as a whole. As such the development is considered contrary to Policies CS16 (High Quality Development) and DM10 (Pollution) of the Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2011, Policy AL1 (Presumption in favour of sustainable development) of the Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations) 2014 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of Havant Borough Council to refuse to grant a certificate of lawful use. The appeal will be determined on the basis of an inquiry.

Representations must be sent within 6 weeks of the starting date, by 23rd August 2021.

The appeal hearing date will be Tuesday 1st March 2022.

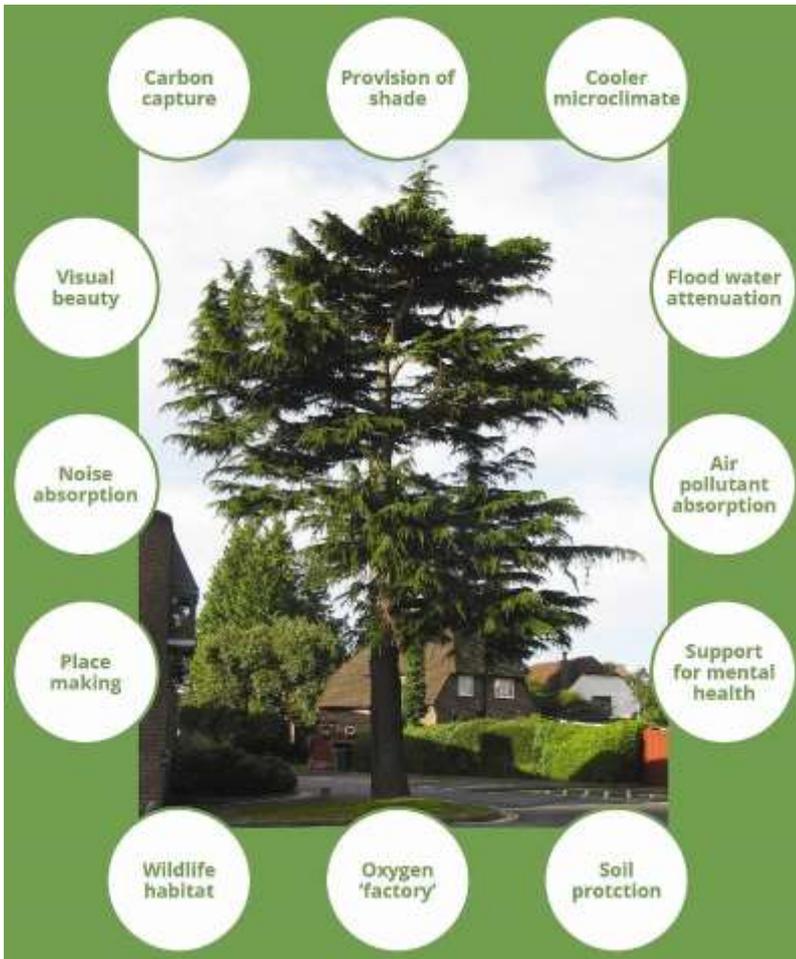


Petersfield Community Tree Location Survey - Identifying public places for planting trees

by Andy Moffat

In 2020, Petersfield Society organised a community survey of public greenspace areas in Petersfield parish with the potential for tree planting and establishment. The survey sought to answer the reasonable question: "where can more trees be planted in the town?" The organisers saw the need to support recent national government and local authority initiatives to plant more trees, not least because of the wide range of benefits that they give to residents and visitors. A 40 page comprehensive report of this survey has now been published by the Petersfield Society, and it is available to download free-of-charge from the Society's website – please use the following link: <https://petersfieldsociety.org.uk/project/petersfield-community-tree-location-survey/>

The report summarises the reasons for the survey, how it was carried out by 34 citizen science volunteers drawn from the Petersfield community, the main results of the survey and their implications. Several examples of how the survey data can be used in planning a tree planting campaign are given, based on different 'ecosystem benefits' that trees provide. The report goes on to discuss the importance of more tree planting for Petersfield, its residents and general liveability, in the face of climate change and the threat of tree pests and diseases. It identifies how public authorities, householders and private landowners can all contribute to improve tree cover. It recommends how relevant agencies might work together in partnership to discharge their responsibility to ensure that Petersfield retains its character and prosperity. The valuable role of community volunteers in contributing to projects of this kind is emphasised. The potential for adopting the kind of methodology used in the Petersfield survey for more widespread identification of places to plant trees in urban areas is also discussed.



Above: Citizen Science volunteer.

Left: Ecosystem services provided by trees.

South Downs National Park, East Hampshire District Council and Petersfield Town Council have already accepted and offered full support to the main findings of the report. A 'Tree Summit' is planned for the autumn when Councils and relevant agencies will be brought together to develop a joint Action Plan for new tree planting in Petersfield parish. The Town Development Advisory Committee has already endorsed this idea at its meeting on 2nd July.



Roadside trees providing shade for pedestrians.

Dr Andy Moffat, one of the authors of the Report says "It is now vital to consider a large tree planting programme in Petersfield to meet the new challenges posed by global warming. Trees can make a real difference to the 'thermal comfort' of residents, and their provision can make simple acts such as walking to the library, shops or cafés during a hot summer day enjoyable rather than challenging." "Through a concerted effort by everyone, I think we could reverse the decline of trees in the town and by increasing tree numbers we could make the town a really attractive place to live in for years to come."

Cllr Adam Carew, Chair of East Hampshire District Council kindly wrote the Foreword to the Report. He says “This innovative and useful report seeks to address that, identifying new places in and around Petersfield to plant new trees – a model which provides an exemplar for other towns and parishes to follow across East Hampshire.”

He goes on to say “This is a wonderful opportunity to establish Partnerships from the Petersfield Society to our newly relaunched East Hampshire Tree Warden Scheme but also Parish and Town Councils and most importantly of all - our local residents, especially schools and young people. In decades to come they will be able to tell their grand children that they took positive action v climate crisis and planted specific trees.”

Right: Car park shaded by trees.



Anne Stephenson, one of the citizen surveyors, said “using smartphones, the tree location survey methodology was fun and easy to use. I hope our efforts will result in more trees to add beauty to the town, and help keep it cool in hot weather.”

For further information on the Report or the proposed Tree Summit, please contact Dr Andy Moffat at andy.moffat@petersfieldsociety.org.uk

All photos by Andy Moffat (copyright Petersfield Society)

Biodiversity Rules Found Wanting – Malinda Griffin

The recent ByLine Times’ Freedom of Information request to HS2 Ltd has revealed that, to date, the construction of HS2 Phase 1 has resulted in the destruction of 116 hectares of woodland. This total includes 15 hectares of ancient woodland (i.e. more than 400 years old), together with the biodiversity dependent on that irreplaceable habitat.

HS2 Ltd, the publicly-owned company responsible for the ambitious infrastructure project, was, however, unable to provide information about the specific number and species of individual trees felled by its contractors; it merely reported that its focus is on “vegetation clearance in terms of area”, and doesn’t record “an individual tree count.”

In other words, this casts doubt on HS2 Ltd’s claim that the “Phase One scheme will leave behind 30% more wildlife habitats than currently exists” since the environmental impacts are clearly poorly understood, and the necessary baseline data for appropriate replanting is largely absent.

HS2 Ltd clearly has not grasped that environmental recovery can’t be measured simply by the number of trees planted, nor understood the crucial ecological and environmental differences between ancient woodland and newly planted saplings.

This is unforgiveable in the face of very obvious Climate Crisis changes due to carbon release, and is particularly abhorrent alongside the disclosure that HS2 Ltd has been issued with nine warnings since April 2020 for breaching wildlife licenses. (Daily Telegraph, 31.07.2021)

Natural England's Director for Wildlife Licensing & Enforcement cases confirmed "The licenses we have granted HS2 set out strict conditions under which these works must be carried out to ensure that populations of protected species are not negatively impacted."

HS2 Ltd described the breaches as "technical or minor" and said the project has committed no wildlife crimes.

It is at very least disappointing that HS2 Ltd thinks it has nothing to be concerned about; repeated breaches of licences issued to protect bats and newts suggests the rail project has a fundamental problem with due diligence, and in honouring the responsibility that being awarded a protected species licence should generate.

This attitude may be significant when considered alongside the government's new metric for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Published by Natural England in July, the metric uses an algorithm to establish how new roads and building projects will be able to achieve no net loss of biodiversity, or achieve a 10% net gain elsewhere if nature is damaged on site.

This follows the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) recommendations that economic recovery from covid-19 must be in tandem with environmental priorities, especially climate change and biodiversity depletion. In response, the Government has undertaken to table an amendment to the Environment Bill that new Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects in England will need to provide a net gain in biodiversity and habitats for wildlife. Enter the BNG metric.

However, although the metric is ambitious, it has several flaws:

- ◆ Essentially, it trades wildlife losses today for uncertain future gains. In addition, it does not value many types of wildlife rich habitats such as sand quarries and field margins, nor is connectivity between habitats taken into account; e.g. it does not distinguish between low value scrub next to a car park and ecologically rich scrub at rewilding projects such as Knepp.
- ◆ The ecological economist team at the University of Kent assessed 6% of the house building in England between January 2020 and February 2021 in six local authorities that had adopted the BNG scheme ahead of national roll out. In total, BNG building projects led to a 34% reduction in green space, offset by mitigation promises of a 20% increase in total biodiversity.

It has been claimed that local authorities will be able to over-ride the algorithm where results are misleading and do not adequately reflect existing biodiversity. While that is to be welcomed, we can expect developers to stick rigidly to the algorithm where it is in their interest to do so and the provision must be written into legislation for it to have any real meaning.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 17th August 10:30am - HBTW Work Party - Hayling Billy Trail

Clearing vegetation from around tree whips.

Park at the car park behind Esso garage - 181 Havant Road, Hayling Island PO11 0LG.

What three words location: <https://w3w.co/delighted.clash.tomb>

Please contact: Judy Valentine hbctreewardens@gmail.com

Tuesday 17th August 1:00pm - 1:30pm - Nature Live Online: The Beetles

YouTube talk hosted by the Natural History Museum.

Beetles make up a quarter of all known animals in the world, with around 400,000 described species and probably many more still unknown to us.

They evolved around 327 million years ago, and survived the biggest mass extinctions in our planet's history, dispersing around the globe and occupying almost every habitat available to them. What is the secret of their spectacular biodiversity? And how are scientists trying to understand it? Join scientist Beulah Garner in a chat with Alison Shean about beetle biodiversity.

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/events/nature-live-online-the-beetles.html>

Monday 23rd August 10:00am – 4:00pm - HBTW Work Party in The Queen's Inclosure

The main task will be removal of laurel.

Please bring a packed lunch, refreshments, gloves and a high visibility vest if you have one.

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 contact Terry Smith to book a place. tjs.oaktreecottage@gmail.com

Tuesday 24th August 10:30am - HBTW Work Party - Sandy Beach Estate

Clearing vegetation from around tree whips.

Sandy Beach Estate, Hayling Island PO11 9RG

What three words location: <https://w3w.co/began.heckler.names>

Please contact: Judy Valentine hbctreewardens@gmail.com

Tuesday 24th August 1:00pm - 1:30pm - Nature Live Online: Urban Meadows

YouTube talk hosted by the Natural History Museum.

What makes a meadow a meadow?

Green spaces come in all sorts, shapes and sizes, and have lots of different names. Join science communicator Khalil Thirlaway and NHM's Head of Gardens Tom McCarter as they find out what's special about meadows, why they're so important and where to find them.

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/events/nature-live-online-meadows.html>

Saturday 28th August – 10:00am - Noon - Friends of Hampshire Farm Meadows Work Party

Details to be confirmed.

For more information and to book a place: hfmfriends@gmail.com

Saturday 28th August 2.00pm – 4.00pm Operation Ocean Witness Street Campaigning

Green peace will be hosting a stall to talk to people about the campaign to call on the UK Government to stop destructive fishing in Marine Protected Areas.

Near Parade Pier, Southsea

<https://greenwire.greenpeace.org.uk/s/event/a2X4H000000SuXMUA0/operation-ocean-witness-street-campaigning-in-southsea-seafront-on-28th-august>

Newsletter Contributions

Please submit newsletter contributions to hbctreewardens@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: 31st August 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>