

JUBILEE TREES

South Norfolk
Tree Wardens Digest

You may have seen reported in the press that the Tree Council have selected 50 of Britain's most special trees - ancient, beautiful, remarkable - to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee, one for each year of her reign. Exceptionally, two of the trees are in South Norfolk District, Kett's Oak at Hethersett and the Chedgrave Jubilee Oak.

The Tree Council say that the purpose of the initiative was to turn the spotlight onto our living heritage which can be considered equal to our architectural one and to ensure that these special trees are not lost through ignorance of their worth. Other tree organisations joined in the nomination process and the final 50 were chosen from the many hundreds received by a panel of judges.

The following lively account of the Chedgrave award has been written by Carol Carpenter and Eric Wilkinson, (Tree Wardens for Langley and Chedgrave respectively) and illustrates the enthusiasm which the Jubilee Tree award has generated.

'By now, you are probably all aware of the search for 50 British trees to mark the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee. The Tree Council had over 1000 entries from which to make their choice and two just happened to be in South Norfolk. One is Kett's Oak at Hethersett, which everyone in this area knows about already, and the other one is the Queen Victoria Jubilee Oak at Chedgrave.

There must have been dozens of trees planted in 1887 to mark Victoria's Golden Jubilee but it seems that most are long forgotten. However, through some local research provenance has been found, in the form of newspaper

cuttings and early 20th Century photographs, for the Chedgrave tree, which is well known in the village. It stands next to the site of the original village pond, a watering hole for sheep and cattle on their way to and from the marshes and Norwich market.

We are very excited that our tree has been chosen as it is one of the youngest on the list - most of the others seem to be veterans. Each tree has already received a certificate to mark the occasion and plaques are being made, to be presented soon. We understand that the Queen will visit one of the trees on the list in the near future (we wonder which one?) and that a book may be published at a later stage. A full list of the 50 selected trees is published in the latest Tree News.

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Carol & Eric under the Chedgrave Jubilee Tree (*Archant*)



Tree Line

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TREE WARDENS TRAINING DAY 13 APRIL 2002

On 13 April about 20 Tree Wardens were treated to a most enjoyable training day at Long Stratton, courtesy of Robin and his merry team.

The day had two separate themes, and the group split into two for

these. One was intended to illustrate the points which should be taken into account when considering applications affecting trees in conservation areas. This involved a not very peaceful stroll down the traffic-infested main street of Long Stratton, discussing a few applications disguised under fanciful names. The most memorable related to an application to remove an Oak: while we were all looking high to see the tree, we completely overlooked the sorry little stunted specimen wedged between a wall and a fence. The highlight of this part of the day must surely be a

sight of the three magnificent venerable Hornbeams behind the Village Hall, fresh and green in their spring foliage.

The second part involved a perambulation around the grounds of South Norfolk House, inspecting the 1970s tree planting. We were all able to be wise after the event and criticise obvious faults such as too close planting, the wrong trees in the wrong places and insensitive landscaping. We also marveled at the over-zealous efforts of the Council's lawnmowers. However, a lot of highly relevant points were made which should be helpful when planning tree planting.

There were lively discussions on both topics and the day was most entertaining and informative. Our thanks go to Robin, Tina, Gilbert Addison and Kit Twinch (on work experience), who all contributed to making the vent very enjoyable, relaxed and instructive. We look forward to the next one!

Sandy Munro
Tree Warden for Bawburgh

NATIONAL TREE WEEK 2002 TREE PLANTING WEEKEND 22-24 NOVEMBER

In the previous issue of *Treeline* we suggested that this year's Tree Week planting would focus on 'Jubilee Planting'. The Tree Council are keen to involve young people in National Tree Week, using the theme 'Growing Together'. Bearing in mind that 50 years is a long time and it is these children who will inherit the trees, this seem a most appropriate idea. Establishing a link with local schools might be a good way of accomplishing this.

Details of Tree Week itself are being sent out, please give some thought as to how you might be able to organise planting this year to combine these aims - and also as to what trees you would like!

Tina Gray

JUBILEE TREES CONT'D

As most of the local population is now aware of this tree, we thought we should publish the fact that we also have four other Royal Trees in Chedgrave. Almost next to the Jubilee Oak, on the same site, stands an Oak planted in 1977 to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee and further up the road is another Oak planted for her Golden Wedding Anniversary. To add to these we planted 2

Hornbeams, during the Jubilee weekend in June this year, in different locations. This brings our total of Royal Trees to 5. As Eric says "any excuse to plant a tree!"

We hope that when all the celebrations are over and forgotten these trees will still stand well into the future.'

Eric & Carol

Eric Wilkinson, Chedgrave Tree Warden (*Archant*)



Walk in Poringland Wood

Maureen Bennett *Tree Warden* (Shelton/Hardwick)

Our Tree Warden's walk in Poringland Wood was scheduled for 30 May 2002. Sure enough when the day arrived so also did torrential rain along with it!

Nevertheless about twenty Tree Wardens decided to brave the elements and we met there in the car park at 6.30 pm.

Poringland Wood lies on the B1332 just past Framingham Earl High School travelling from Bungay in the direction of Norwich. I had passed this wood many times totally unaware of its existence as the entrance has been intentionally left inconspicuous to avoid attracting uncaring visitors.

Robin Taylor introduced us to Tara Hansford who was to guide us through the wood. Tara has managed Poringland Wood for several years on behalf of the Leisure Department of South Norfolk District Council, but the wood remains the property of The Crown Point Estate.

Our walk in this ten hectare wood commenced along the *All Ability Trail* and as we passed through a beautiful mix of broadleaved trees the sun broke through casting golden rays throughout the wood. Here there are many English Oak, Ash and Hornbeam and a wonderful specimen of Wych Elm. On this part of the walk we crossed over some very deep fast flowing waterways, and then into an open grassed area known as 'Sleeper's Corner'. This is being managed as a wildflower meadow to encour-

age butterflies, moths and insects, which will help to provide a food source for the birds. Along the northern boundary of this meadow a new mixed species hedge has been planted, from here you have wonderful open views out across many hectares of agricultural land.

Beyond 'Sleeper's Corner' is an excellent example of coppiced woodland, where successive crops of poles have been cut from the hazel trees leaving very thick stumps. These poles have probably been used for many years in making hurdles, baskets, wattling in timber framed buildings and in many local gardens. As part of the management of Poringland Wood it is hoped that a two year rotational coppicing programme can be organised.

After leaving the coppiced area we crossed over a very ancient boundary bank which runs from east to west between the parishes of Framingham Earl and Framingham Pigot, this boundary is believed to be more than seven hundred years old.

Here we entered into a piece of heathland with a mix of pine trees, bracken, gorse and rhododendrons, this is the highest part of the wood. A very large pit still remains here which was dug out by the Victorians for sand and flint gravel, and there is also evidence that in prehistoric times flint was dug out from here for tools and pot boilers (these were flints which were heated in fires and then dropped into water to warm it, as heat proof pot-

tery didn't exist in those days). We were surprised to learn that young people are allowed to use this pit for mountain biking, but it is in the context that the wood should be accessible to all as long as the *Woodland Code* is remembered. With this attitude it is also hoped many young people will learn to love and appreciate woodlands.

This area was very badly effected by the October gale in 1987 when many trees were lost, but has been replanted with a mix of broad-leaved trees which are already beginning to mature, Sweet Chestnut being the dominant species.

There are many fallen trees throughout the wood which are left to rot as an important habitat for both flora and fauna, and the dead trees are in many cases left standing also for these reasons. All along this walk there are many plants of interest including Broad-leaved Buckler Fern, Wood Sage, rushes and grasses. The soil is very diverse ranging from peaty soil through sand and into very boggy areas.

This is a very beautiful piece of English landscape and a wonderful place of peace and tranquillity to be enjoyed by all.

To round off this special evening we were very kindly invited to the home of Mrs Sheena Florance who is Tree Warden for Framingham Earl, where we all enjoyed tea and coffee and delicious home baked ginger biscuits, for which on behalf of all the Tree Wardens present I would like to say a big thank you to Sheena and Anthony, and also for giving us all a free rein to enjoy their beautiful and interesting garden.

TPO News

Ten new Tree Preservation Orders have been made since the last issue of Treeline in the parishes of Costessey, Diss, Earsham (2), Hethersett, Long Stratton, Redenhall with Harleston, Scole, Swardeston and Woodton.

Planning applications highlighted the need for Orders in Hethersett, Redenhall with Harleston and Woodton. In Hethersett, trees had already been felled within a garden site prior to an application to build 4 new dwellings. There is concern that the remaining trees are compromised by the proposal and further information has been requested to justify the scheme. In Woodton, an Oak tree which overhangs the proposed garden of a new dwelling, has been protected to ensure that it is not cut back to the boundary by future residents of the new house. In Harleston, Planning Officers have recommended refusal

for a proposal to build a house under a magnificent 350 year-old Oak. This tree has a canopy spread of 30 metres and is, in our opinion, one of the finest trees in the town.

In Diss and Scole, the Orders have been served in response to notifications made to the Council under the Conservation Area restrictions to prevent the felling of an Ash and a Cedar. Two separate Orders have been served in Earsham and one in Costessey as part of our general programme to protect significant trees within development boundaries. Three Oaks, five Scots Pines and three Limes are covered.

Finally two special Oaks have also been protected. In Swardeston, the Tree Warden Mr Authur Hall, spotted a potential veteran tree on the common and it was agreed with the local Councillor that this should be the subject of an Order. In Long Stratton, a routine enquiry by a member of the

public lead to the discovery of a fine pollarded Oak within a housing estate and this too is now protected.

A total of 85 trees are now protected by these ten Orders. If you would like further details about their locations, please contact me and I will let you have a copy of the plan and schedule.

Robin Taylor

Tree Warden Hellos

There are six new Wardens "on the books". Wendy Bradnam, Stuart Malone and John Lester have all become second Wardens in their respective parishes of Diss, Bawburgh and Diss, whilst Derek Roberts (Brockdish), David Westrup (Bunwell) and Mr J Loades (Keswick) have agreed to be Wardens in previously wardenless parts! We welcome them all to the scheme.

Forthcoming events 2002

Saturday 19 or Sunday 20 October	The Great Storm: Woodland regeneration 15 years on.
Saturday 3 November	Provisional revised date for East Anglian Regional Forum, to be held at Staverton Park, Woodbridge.
Friday 22 November	Tree Collection from South Norfolk House 10.00-4.00pm
22-24 November	Tree Planting Weekend

ANNUAL FORUM

As two very successful events were held in the spring, the Day School in April and Walk in the Woods in May, it has been decided to postpone the Annual Forum scheduled for July to avoid 'event overload'. We intend to concentrate our efforts into making a memorable day for you in October (see left) and hope that as many of you as possible will attend this event.

Access to South Norfolk Tree Wardens

Tree Wardens and the Internet/
World-Wide Web

E-mail addresses are given for those Tree Wardens and organizers already on the web. If in doubt visit Ian's woodland web site: <http://www.ibdigital.co.uk/woodland>

... and let us know when you get online!

...see all issues in colour @
<http://www.ibdigital.co.uk/woodland>

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It's all about sharing information and best practise so please contribute any item of interest, local or national activity. Your news and views will be most welcome.

Any ideas -put them in the (e)mail.

