

# Happy New Year 2003

Welcome to the New Year and a bumper edition of *TreeLine* to enjoy during the long dark winter evenings ahead. Since the last issue in July, South Norfolk Tree Wardens have been involved with a variety of events making 2002 a very busy (and hopefully enjoyable) year for some of you.

National Tree Week has built on its past success and become a firm fixture on our calendar. There are 93 parishes with Tree Wardens in South Norfolk and over the three years the scheme has been running 55 of these, or 59%, have taken part at least once. Although we have been concerned about future funding, at the present time it seems that South Norfolk Council will be able to continue the scheme in 2003.

Raising our profile nationally, the Tree Council's collection of Great

British Trees included two from the district, Ketts Oak at Hethersett and the Chedgrave Jubilee Oak. A copy of the book which details all fifty trees is enclosed, this is provided by the Tree Council free of charge.

The final event of 2002 was official recognition of ten years of the South Norfolk Tree Wardens Scheme. Robin, accompanied by Eric Wilkinson (Chedgrave) and Councillor John Peterson, attended a reception on 12 December at the House of Commons where they were presented with a commemorative plaque. This will be on public display in South Norfolk House.

Thank you for your interest and support in all these ventures and we hope you will take part in the events we have planned for 2003.

TINA GRAY



*Kett's Oak*

South Norfolk  
Tree Wardens Digest

# TreeLine

Issue No.11

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# The Storm of 1987 – Fifteen years on

It is always enjoyable to meet together with other Tree Wardens and exchange notes and experiences. All of us were therefore looking forward to the Forum arranged by Robin, Tina and their team at South Norfolk. The topic chosen was of general interest, since we had all been affected in some way no doubt by the fierce tempest that hit SE England some fifteen years back. It was going to be a fascinating opportunity to hear how it had been dealt with professionally at the time and then see how local people had responded. Little did we realise the profound irony of this meeting!

After the official welcome on behalf of South Norfolk District Council by the Chairman, Councillor Peter Smith, Lord MacGregor of Pulham Market gave an account of his experience as Minister of Agriculture at the time of the Storm.

The centre-piece of the morning's proceedings was an illustrated talk given by Barry Griggs, who worked for the Forestry Commission at the time. The storm resulted in a vast amount of timber, mostly pine and susceptible to 'blue stain fungi'. Barry explained his responsibility was for the long-term storage of the timber, ensuring that both its quality and the market was retained. He explained how a system was devised, making use of experience from forestry management in Germany, to keep the moisture content of the timber at an acceptable level. An old pit in Thetford Forest was requisitioned

to act partly as a reservoir and partly as a vast holding basin for the trimmed trunks of the conifers, where they could be almost continually sprayed and thus prevented from drying out. The scheme was most successful, with saleable timber leaving the site many years later.

Mark Easton gave a brief introduction to the afternoon visit to Easton Farm Arboretum. Planted in the 1970s, the trees were badly damaged during the storm in 1987 and some have survived being winched back into position.

After a splendid buffet lunch provided by Cllr Smith we were bussed to two locations in the locality to see at first hand how trees were being managed. First we visited the Morningthorpe Estate by kind invitation of Hugh and Bridget Sargent. Considerable damage had been caused by the Storm in 1987 and plans were subsequently devised for planting new woodland to replace the uprooted and ruined trees. Plantings of oaks and conifers had been done in four different years from 1989. The young trees had become well established (see accompanying photo) and the advice was now to thin out the conifers over the next five years, regarding them as a commercial crop. Elsewhere it was suggested a few sycamores should be left - to alleviate the squirrel damage. Then we went to the Easton Farm at Bunwell. Mark Easton continued with more history of the establishment of the Arboretum and it's

management following the Storm. He explained how various species of indigenous and more exotic species of trees had been planted within an area ringed by a protective wind shelter belt. This central area had originally been cleared by his grandfather for arable land but the scheme had never proved successful.

The latter visit was fascinating but very limited from the time point of view, so it was suggested we come



back in the summer for a whole day to do a close study of all the species that have been planted. Perhaps it will be easier and safer without the pheasant brigade in full cry or should I say within (ear)shot?

We all know what happened a week later, when on 27 October once again we woke to find devastation following another severe storm.

JOHN WEBSTER (Forncett)

*Right:* Sandy Munro (Bawburgh), Sheena Florance (Framingham Earl), Mark Easton, Lord & Lady MacGregor at Easton's Aroretum.

*Below:* Morningthorpe Woods



# National Tree Week 2002

Tree Wardens from 35 South Norfolk parishes took part in National Tree Week for the third successive year in November 2002. The level of planting sustained by this scheme throughout the District is crucial to the impact Tree Wardens are making to our local landscape. A direct result of this is that the threatened loss of funds appears to have been lifted for 2003.

Since November 2000 when the scheme was started in South Norfolk, 2,387 trees and 2.5 km of hedging have been planted, a total of 12,763 individual plants. We managed to maintain the numbers planted this year despite budget constraints because we were able to reduce the cost of shelters, in part due to the re-cycling of these items carried out by some Tree Wardens. Shelters are usually more expensive than the plants themselves and the importance of re-using them cannot be over-emphasised. Please use *TreeLine* to pass on any that need new homes.

Sandy Munroe and Stuart Malone (Bawburgh) made a huge contribution to Tree Week by spending a day counting and moving stakes, tubes, spiral and canes around so that they were ready for collection. Their help was invaluable in making Tree Week run even more smoothly than in previous years and we are very grateful to them both for giving up their time – and offering to do it again next year!

And a big 'thank you' to Jilly Baines (Wicklewood) who gave us some time at Springfields on collection morning which was greatly appreciated.

This year the Tree Council's theme was 'Growing Together', aimed at linking trees into the lives of young people. We also suggested that planting might be linked to the Jubilee Year. Sheila McCarter (Alpington & Yelverton) combined both these ideas when she co-ordinated the planting of 201 trees by the children of Alpington &

Bergh Apton village school. Robin and I were witness to a feat of impressive organisation and Sheila's own account is in this issue of *TreeLine*. Spooner Row hit the headlines (of the Wymondham & Attleborough Mercury) by planting 5 trees to commemorate the Golden Jubilee.

These are just two of the 35 planting schemes in the district, please let us know if you have any similar stories.

We intend to make National Tree Week in 2003 an opportunity to 'mend the gap' by promoting hedge planting to join the gaps - and then see which parish has the longest continuous stretch of hedging in the district. Further details will be sent in late summer.

TINA GRAY

## COMPETITION

Left: Stuart Malone (L) & Sandy Munro (R) (Bawburgh) – sorting tree shelters – but can you suggest an amusing caption?

## COMPETITION



Below: Robin and Joshua planting for Tree Week at Alpington.



# Planting a Jubilee Wood<sup>26 November 2002</sup>

When the offer of trees to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee was made, I was keen to take advantage. The local council had just bought a playing field and it was an ideal place and time to plant a wood. Alington School and the Playgroup were both asked to help as the theme for Tree Week was to involve young people.

The trees were booked in September when November seemed a long way off. Suddenly it was the end of October and time to get organised. We had the original planting scheme but that did not include a detailed timetable, making cards for the children or arranging 200 name labels....

Friday collection day dawned. I borrowed a Ford Galaxy car, took

out all the passenger seats, and headed south to Long Stratton in my lunch hour – where I found Robin just about to have his.... We had been expecting small trees. Wrong. I drove back to work with an oak tree nuzzling my ear and floor to roof shelters, stakes and branches. That's when the phone calls really began. I had Bergh Apton's holly hedge as well as all Alington's wood....

Saturday morning was allocated for setting out. I thought that I was organized and had a good plan of action. Three hours later we had a workable plan of action and the field was organized....

Tuesday, planting day, was a rather damp, cold and misty morning but the children were keen to get

started. There followed two hours of organized chaos. Suddenly it was all over, the trees were safely planted, the children had all gone and the Sun had come out. Time for coffee, chocolate biscuits and spade cleaning!

I have to finish by saying a big thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success in particular Andrew, Andy, David, Lorie and Paul. Thank you.

SHEILA McCARTER  
(Alington & Yelverton)

*Below: Sheila McCarter showing the children how to plant their trees, Alington 26 November 2002.*



# Visit to Long's Wood, Wrenningham

Amongst the few lucky Tree Wardens invited by NCC to visit Long's Wood, Wrenningham, in July, was Ian Dobson. A pleasant evening was organised simply to enjoy the environment and the company and discuss woodland matters in general and creating new woodland specifically.

Assembly was at Dennis Long's farm, Wrenningham, from whence we struck out across the airstrip and into Long's Wood, 'Sherwood', with Gerry Barns, NCC Forestry Officer and organiser of the evening leading the way. I had given all the guests a copy of the wood leaflet, which includes a map, just in case we should lose anyone along the way! We numbered approx. 34, a very respectable number with a wide range of interests. Gerry had Tom Williamson (UEA), Heidi Mahon, NCC Conservation and Gary Battell in support. Gary is Gerry's counterpart from Suffolk.

We gathered together at 'Sherwood' and Gerry gave us an outline of the Kenninghall project in Breckland, a plan to purchase land, perhaps 10 acres in all, and plant it with native tree species similar to that surrounding us in Long's Wood. As one might expect the need is for enthusiasm, foresight and ability to engender community spirit and enthusiasm. The Kenninghall project group has the enthusiasm and the community spirit ... it just needs some money. Karen, a 'local' and regular horse rider in Long's Wood, interrupted the proceedings as the horse strode forth into 'Sherwood'. Discussions continued about wood design, the concept of location identification by tree groupings e.g. the row of Limes here at the edge of

'Sherwood' projecting a line from the farm. Tom Williamson then proceeded with our farming history lesson and described woodland destruction; cattle farming on the "uplands" until in the late 18th century farming becomes predominantly arable . . . leading to the demise of the hedges.

The walk progressed through 'Sherwood' into 'Rush Piece' and on between 'Coslany' and 'Dunsford' to 'Debro's Wood' all the while discussions continue about design, planning and of course the growth we saw around us. Long's Wood is now becoming well established with many species, especially the Alder reaching a good 5 metres tall already.

A further gathering for discussion took place by the car park which is within 'Debro's Wood' alongside

the Wymondham Road from Wrenningham. Gary Battell's contribution here was to describe his keanness for the re-introduction of Beech, a neglected species in his opinion. Others [I can't remember who!] recommended the growing of Hornbeam to coppice and the future plans for woodland such as Long's Wood. Talk about the need for trimming and long term plans for thinning perhaps. "Oak needs an overcoat but no top hat" quoted someone else, what an eloquent simple description for care of the oak says I.

A pleasant evening was had by all, thanks to Gerry for organising and to Dennis for hosting. Good luck to the Kenninghall Project.

IAN DOBSON.



## HEDGE MATTERS

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has issued a leaflet called 'Over the Garden Hedge' and a copy is enclosed with this issue of *TreeLine*. We think it is very useful as it has clear and concise answers to the most usual questions that arise regarding hedge heights and neighbour problems.

Looking ahead to longer and warmer days in June and July, the new Hedgerow Survey Handbook recommends that this is the ideal time carry out hedge surveys. Setting out the standard procedure for local surveys in the UK, the Handbook is published by DEFRA on behalf of the Steering Group for the UK Biodiversity Action Plan for Ancient and/or Species-rich Hedgerows. The intention is to inform local communities so that they can collect hedgerow data which can then be used to build up nationally comparable datasets. From this an accurate picture of the status of the hedgerow network across the country will emerge. The initial survey is the first step in designing an effective plan of action for safeguarding this valuable habitat.

The Handbook is very welcome as with clear guidance notes and illustrations it contains all the information necessary to carry out a hedgerow survey. Let us know if you would like a copy.

TG

# Forthcoming events 2003

- Sunday May 11** Day-Trip to the Greenlight Trust's Golden Wood, Lawshall Green, Bury St Edmunds
- Summer DaySchool** Arboretum/Farm visit: Tree identification, practical hedge surveys. Details of date and location to follow.  
Early July
- 26 Nov.– 7 Dec.** National Tree Week 2003
- 28–30 November** Tree Planting Weekend

## DIARY DATES

MAY 11 - Sunday, Day-Trip to the Greenlight Trust's Golden Wood, at Lawshall Green, Bury St Edmunds and information on how you can have one of your own. Robin and I were given this presentation recently which impressed us and we hope you will come and see for yourselves.

Those of you who came to the last Regional Forum at the University of East Anglia may remember Nigel Hughes, founding Director of the Greenlight Trust, who sang and talked about their projects in Papua New Guinea and at home in the UK.

It will be a day for you to bring your own picnic, although we will provide some goodies. Further details and a booking form will be sent at the beginning of April.

## FUNDING YOUR PROJECT IN 2003

Funds are available from the Tree Council for projects planned for planting during National Tree Week in two categories. Well-planned tree planting projects in school grounds are available. The schools must apply, the project should cost between £100–700 and funding will be a maximum of 75% of the total of the project.

Local community groups and individuals proposing to undertake well-planned tree planting projects starting in Tree Week 2003 and involving children, are also eligible for funds as above. In both cases the closing date for applications is 30 June 2003.

The information is available on the Tree Council web-site, [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk), or from The Tree Council at 51 St Catherine Place, London SW1E 6DY telephone 0207 828 9928



Tree Wardens can purchase further copies of *Great British Trees* direct from the Tree Council for £8.99 including p&p. Please send a cheque made payable to The Tree Council to: Emma Watkin, The Tree Council, 51 Catherine Place, London SW1E 6DY



### HELLO BRENDA

We are very pleased to welcome Brenda Schubert to the team. Brenda joined us as Clerical Assistant on 30 December, replacing Sonia who has moved to the Environmental Health & Leisure Department. Brenda joined the Planning Department in 1989 and has been aware of the Tree Wardens for some time, she is looking forward to getting properly involved. Brenda will help with

our administration work and to organise events, so she will be able to deal with your enquiries. Contact Brenda on 01508 533818, *email* bschubert@s-norfolk.gov.uk.

### THANK YOU KEN....

Ken Grayling (Tharston) has had to resign as co-editor of *TreeLine* due to pressure of work. We are extremely grateful to Ken for his contribution to getting and keeping this newsletter off the ground.

### ...EDITOR REQUIRED

Ian Dobson (Wreningham) is happy to continue as Editor but would appreciate some help. This is a voluntary post and requires just a little time, lots of ideas and preferably some writing. If you would like to become involved please contact either Ian or Tina, contact details are on the back page.

# TPO News

There are 350 Tree Preservation Orders across the district. These range in scope from just a single tree to multiple areas of woodland. Up to now it has not been easy to quantify the overall numbers of trees and areas of woodland protected by these, however a review of the files during 2002 has provided the following statistics:

- Just over 1900 trees are individually specified by the TPOs. Of these, 39% are Oak, 11% Beech, 10% Lime, 9% Ash and 6% Horse Chestnut. 7% are Sycamore – who says these are weeds and never protected?!
- 58 hectares of woodland are included, the equivalent of 100 football pitches!
- There are 62 hectares of unsurveyed “Areas” or “Groups”. Whilst the trees within these continue to be protected, surveys are needed to ensure that we are able to effectively monitor and enforce the TPOs.

Since the last issue of *TreeLine*, 10 new TPOs have been served to protect 38 individual specimens and a 0.1 hectare “Area” of unspecified trees. In Ellingham, Wymondham, Great Moulton and Redenhall with Harleston the Orders are connected to planning applications on the sites. Conservation Area notifications were the starting-point for new TPOs in Cringleford and Loddon. In Morley St Botolph, Poringland and Tibenham,

concern about proposed work to trees prompted the TPOs. Finally an historic hedgerow Hornbeam has been protected in Tacolneston.

Thanks to all of those who help us by commenting on proposals to carry out work to trees in Conservation Areas. In 2002 South Norfolk Council received 132 such notifications. The comments returned by Tree Wardens eliminated the need for a further site visit by Tina or myself in 36 of these cases. This input potentially saved 800 miles worth of fuel and 25 hours of travelling and site visit time (based on AA Route Planner calculations), allowing us to concentrate our resources on the issues that matter to you.

ROBIN TAYLOR

## Regional Tree Warden Forum

Unfortunately, the East Anglian Regional Tree Warden Forum was not able to take place in 2002. Various factors conspired to make the event unfeasible. After the success of the UEA event in 2001 we did not want to offer a second-rate event, therefore all the regional co-ordinators reluctantly agreed to postpone until Autumn 2003. We very much hope to use Staverton Thicks near Woodbridge as a venue, as the ancient Oaks there are quite magnificent. RT

## South Norfolk shares honour with Ambridge!

Councillor Dr John Peterson, Eric Wilkinson (Chedgrave) and I attended a reception at the House of Commons on 12 December on behalf of South Norfolk Council, and received a plaque recognising 10 years’ commitment to the Tree Warden Scheme. This is now displayed at the Council’s main reception desk in Long Stratton.

Included in the list of Councils Honoured by the Tree Council was Ambridge Parish Council, and I found myself standing next to “George Barford” in a group photograph. Needless to say, I made the most of this opportunity and told of my Grandmother who once dated the creator of “The Archers” and was regularly taken to Stratford in his side-car!

ROBIN TAYLOR

Pictured are (from left): Gareth Llewellyn (National Grid), Robin Taylor, Cllr Dr John Peterson (South Norfolk Council Cabinet Member for Safeguarding the Environment and Kevin Hand (The Tree Council).



## Tree Warden Hellos

We are pleased to welcome four new Tree Wardens. Chris Spalding (Cringleford), Bernard Frost (Easton) and Richard Smith (Newton Flotman) have replaced existing Wardens in their parishes. Ashby St Mary Parish has joined the scheme with the appointment of Peter Wright.

## Access to South Norfolk Tree Wardens

### Contact address and Telephone:

Landscape Officer: Robin Taylor 01508 533813  
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 Landscape Assistant and *TreeLine*  
 Co-ordinator: Tina Gray 01508 533936  
 tgray@s-norfolk.gov.uk

*TreeLine* Editor:

**VACANCY**

join Ian and help put together this news sheet.

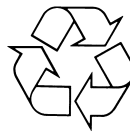


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It’s all about sharing information and best practise so please contribute any item of interest, local or national activity. Your news and views will be most welcome.



...see all issues in colour @

<http://www.ibdigital.co.uk/woodland>

Any ideas – put them in the (e)mail.