

Team work for Tree Week

I missed it! Driving to work in the middle of November, my car received a broadside swipe rendering it useless and removing me from active duties for several weeks.

Happily, because it was the fourth successive year that the Tree Week scheme has run in South Norfolk, we are getting better at the organisation so the plants and shelters had been ordered in late October. All that was left to do was the physical bit – sort the plants, await deliveries and make sure that Tree Wardens collected the right things!

Robin lived up to his namesake and jumped into action to make sure that Tree Week was a success. He and Brenda travelled by Batmobile to Felthorpe Forest Nursery on a very wet, dank November day where they sorted more than 12,000 plants for 27 parishes in record time. The number of plants was at least twice as many as in previous years: as a response to the exceptionally high demand and the perceived enthusiasm of Tree Wardens for the planting scheme, we were able to vire unused funds from elsewhere and double the available budget.

On Tree Collection day Robin and Brenda were very grateful to have the help of Sandy Munro, Carol Carpenter, Eric Wilkinson and Michael Marron at South Norfolk House. They were rewarded with sunshine and I understand that all the plants had been collected by the middle of the afternoon, to everyone's relief!

Tree Week 2003 saw an additional three kilometres of hedging planted in the district. We asked the Tree Wardens involved for information regarding the total lengths of joined up hedges which have resulted from this effort. The statistics could be very impressive and if you haven't

been in touch with us, please do let us have the information as soon as possible. We have a measuring wheel that you are welcome to borrow if this will make the task easier. To inspire you further, as if that were needed, we hope to run a training day later in the year focusing on hedge surveying.

Tree Week has become a high profile event in our Tree Wardens' calendar and is a superb example of team effort from start to finish. I am glad to be back at work writing this and it gives me an opportunity to say thank you to everyone who helped to make the event a success.

The Tree Council is keen to promote the planting of hedgerow trees and in 2004 we will be encouraging the planting of these where possible, alongside newly planted and existing hedgerows. Alternatively trees may be allowed to develop from within the hedgerow itself. During the next few months you might like to consider suitable sites for this type of planting, or select suitable specimens to grow on.

A word of warning: for the first time Tree Week 2003 was 'sold out' at the beginning of October, with the result that some requests were turned down. Assuming that we continue to be able to offer this scheme, please keep a note in your diary of this year's dates: Tree Week 2004 takes place from 24 November – 5 December, our South Norfolk Tree Planting Weekend will be 26–28 November. Keep an eye out for mailings later in the year and get your requests back as soon as possible – first come first served!

Tina Gray

South Norfolk
Tree Wardens Digest

Tree Line

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CELEBRATION OF TREES 2003

Prompted by the Tree Council's initial idea, Eric and I decided to arrange a 'Celebration of Trees' as part of our National Tree Week contribution. Our clergy were extremely co-operative and a service was held in Chedgrave Church on Sunday 23 November at 3pm.

The church had been suitably decorated for the occasion with lovely arrangements of leaves and fruits. The organ was played by Anthony Florance, husband of Sheena the Tree Warden for Framingham Earl who had organised the all-important tea. The cakes were brought by members of the congregation and were delicious! The singing was led by the 'The Trillers', who belong to the Trefoil Guild of ex-Guiders.

The format was very simple with readings, poems and a few prayers. Canon Chris Chapman led the proceedings assisted by his two clergy and gave a very interesting reflection on the many ways trees affect our lives. It was a dreadful day, pouring with rain, but nevertheless the church was full.

During the last hymn the children handed out small decorated envelopes containing acorns collected from the Chedgrave Jubilee Oak. Hopefully those who received them will now have planted these for the future.

A small display of books, leaflets and some of the work of Tree Wardens was available during tea, following the service.

We hope that other Wardens will take up this idea for their parishes. It really helps to get the community together in not only a social, but also a very meaningful way.



Carol Carpenter, Tree Warden for Langley with Hardley; Eric Wilkinson, Tree Warden for Chedgrave

NEWS FROM NORFOLK

Breckland District Council is lucky enough to have Gilbert Addison re-starting their Tree Warden scheme. Some of you will know Gilbert and may have met him here at South Norfolk House on our Training Day in April 2002.

To encourage him, we are planning to combine some of our events and would like to know if you have any thoughts about this. At the moment we are planning to invite the Breckland Tree Wardens to our Summer Day School at the Easton Arboretum in Bunwell.

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South Norfolk Tree Wardens at the East Anglian Regional Forum with Jon Stokes of the Tree Council (front row far left).



To the woods ... to the woods

Staverton: Regional Forum 2003 by Paul Gowman *Tree Warden* for Swainsthorpe

There is something very enjoyable about being in a warm fuggy coach bowling along country lanes, peering over the usually too high boundary hedges, catching glimpses of other people's gardens and snapshots of their way of life. This is particularly so when abroad and so our East Anglian Regional Tree Wardens' Forum, held in Suffolk, was a double treat.

As we entered the tangled crush of Tree Wardens in the entrance to Butley Village Hall to join the registration queue, I was jostled by one of the organisers trying to get through. You can tell the 'organisers' from the others as they are generally carrying a clipboard, wearing a fixed smile, and nodding at people as if they do remember who they are and are pleased to see them. As we exchanged our ritualistic 'sorries' I thought, 'I know that chap....now let me think..' and whilst my cogs were still grinding he returned and said, 'I thought I recognised you - It's Paul from Alton in Hampshire isn't it?' The answer was, of course, 'Yes'. My brain whirred into a higher gear as I backtracked from being a Tree Warden in Norfolk through former lives, jobs and house moves and slowly I placed him from 15 years ago, when Jon Stokes of The Tree Council had been instrumental in setting up the Tree Warden Scheme and Hampshire had been one of the first counties to embrace the project. We hadn't met or spoken since.

So whilst I re-evaluated my estimation of organisers who only looked as if they recognised people, and feeling chuffed to have been

recognised, and at the same time congratulating Jon on his excellent memory, he brought me down to earth by telling me that I wasn't easy to forget - he had been trying to do so for many years!

Now there are forums and there are bore-ums but this was a forum worth attending. Every speaker was enthused, articulate and generous with their knowledge and experience and John Gummer MP spoke humourously and with personal knowledge about the concerns we all have for the future of our woodlands and hedgerows. He seemed a decent enough chap and one hopes that he can do something to improve the thinking on the environment at the Houses of Parliament. It just goes to show that someone who force feeds their child beef burgers isn't all bad.

But how about those photographs by Archie Miles? Absolutely amazing detail giving a real sense of the connectedness of the tree to its setting in the landscape and a lesson to us all in giving a lot of thought as to where we place the trees we plant for future generations to enjoy.

Simon Leatherdale gave every impression of being a humanised Ent as he rose and rose to speak about wet woodland management. (Er...for those of you wondering, an Ent is a rare and wonderful walking-talking tree species from the *Lord of the Rings*). But, again so enthusiastically knowledgeable that I am determined to find some wet woodland in my bailiwick - must be some somewhere.

Of course the sun did come out for our picnic at the village hall and gave us all the chance to have

a natter and a catch up as well as make new contacts. Networking it's called of course and this contact helps improve our knowledge and puts us in touch with someone who may be more expert than us - as in 'I don't know the answer to this, but, I do know someone who will.'. There were a lot of experts at this forum who one just knew could be contacted in the future with the opening gambit, 'I met you at a Tree Wardens' Forum and I was wondering...'

And then it was to the woods! I like many others was just so seriously impressed by Staverton Park. As we stood under the ancient trees a reverent hush descended upon our group, the first hush of the day I think! The facts rolled out of our guides and mostly over our heads as we just gazed in silent awe at our surroundings and slowly took in the many coincidental accidents of history that had allowed this wood to survive, pretty much in its original state since at least 1275. Hats off to the Kemble family, say I, and all power to their elbow - the woods are maintaining their luck through the ages with the present owners. Just to think - most of our landscape was like that at the time of the Conquest.



Right: one of many grand Staverton Oaks.

TPO News

Since the last issue of *TreeLine*, nine new Tree Preservation Orders have been served. These protect trees in Brooke, Bunwell, Costessey, Denton, Ellingham, Long Stratton, Redenhall with Harleston and Wymondham. Most of these TPOs were served in response to planning applications and relate to the following policy of the adopted South Norfolk Local Plan:

POLICY ENV19

Tree Preservation Orders

Within or adjacent to development boundaries TPOs will be made to

protect individual trees, groups of trees and woodland where they make a significant contribution to the landscape, character and appearance of the settlement. Within the Norwich Policy Area important areas of woodland that help to define the hard edge of the built up area and maintain the physical separation between settlements will be protected from inappropriate development. Outside development boundaries Orders will be made where a demonstrable threat to fell exists and similar amenity value is evident.

TUBE EXCHANGE

Gaby Nelson, Tree Warden for Gissing has 150 green hedging tubes and a few canes looking for a home. Please contact her on 01379 677793.

Forthcoming events

14 April	Talking to Tree Wardens – ‘Woodland in Norfolk, a Landscape History’, Gerry Barnes, from Norfolk County Council’s Environment Division, will talk to Tree Wardens, 7.30pm, South Norfolk House
15 May	Walk in the Woods – walk in local woodlands. <i>Details to follow</i>
26 June	Summer Day School at Easton Farm Arboretum. A day of tree identification and practical hedge surveys. <i>Details to follow</i>
2 October (provisional date)	East Anglian Regional Tree Warden Forum, to be held at Centre Parcs, Elveden
24 Nov–5 Dec	National Tree Week
26-28 Nov	South Norfolk Tree Warden Tree Planting Weekend

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>

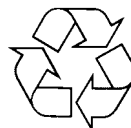
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Any ideas –put them in the (e)mail.



HELLOS

We are pleased to welcome Mr Beverley Spratt as Tree Warden for the Parish of Tacolnестon. Mr Spratt is also District Councillor for Bunwell Ward.

We are sorry to say goodbye to three Wardens: Sheila McCarter (Alpington & Yelverton), Mov Smythe (Wymondham) and Mrs Ellingford (Pulham St Mary).

There are currently Tree Wardens in 94 of the District’s 119 Parishes.



NEW TALENT

For some time we have been looking for a volunteer to help Ian Dobson and Tina Gray with the writing and editing of *TreeLine*.

So a huge thank you to Paul Gowman, Tree Warden for Swainsthorpe who has very kindly agreed to join us. Paul has recently joined the South Norfolk Tree Wardens, although as you will see from reading his articles in both this and the previous edition, he has long been involved with the Scheme. We are very pleased to have him on the team.