

Letter from Broadland

South Norfolk
Tree Wardens Digest

Dear Ian,

Many congratulations on the publication of the first issue of your new newsletter for South Norfolk Tree Wardens.

As you and several of your readers will know, I have been writing a similar newsletter for Broadland tree wardens . . . *Broadsheet* is published monthly . . . issue 15 [gone] for printing. So I guess you can say that it is now established!!!... some [S.Norfolk] wardens are regular readers and I look forward to several of the Broadland wardens becoming regular readers of yours over the coming months.

With our schemes neighbouring each other, it would be good for us to exchange ideas and maintain a contact. Perhaps we could regularly submit articles to each others publications. We have just opened up a page on Broadland District Council's web site and I have long-term plans, in conjunction with Margaret MacQueen, our Tree Officer, to develop that further.

It would be wonderful if we could stage a joint event or have a joint meeting. This could open up endless possibilities for development of the

GRANT NEWS

The scope of South Norfolk Council's Community Environmental Grant Scheme will be widened as from April 2000. In future we will be able to offer grants to assist with surgery to TPO trees and it will also be easier for wardens to get the plants and sundries that they need for their Parish projects. This will be in addition to the kind of assistance already offered by the scheme. More details on the criteria will be sent to you soon.

Tree Warden Scheme. I've discussed such ideas with Margaret and I know that would have her complete support.

A few months ago, two of your wardens, Carol Carpenter and Eric Wilkinson of Hardley & Chedgarve, sent a letter to *Broadsheet*, outlining their activities and I was delighted to publish it. Let that be the start of regular exchanges with us submitting articles to each other's magazines. . . . Like us, you are now developing your scheme to a point where you are creating your own community. That is the way forward. We have to become a family and it is essential that we reach out to other schemes so that we may learn from a wider experience. I am looking forward to the spring when I can join Eric on one of his bluebell walks . . . learned from his letter. That is how we broaden our horizons.

So, on behalf of the Broadland Tree Wardens . . . best of luck with your publication and . . . we look forward to forging a close friendship with you all.

John Fleetwood

Brundall Parish Tree Warden

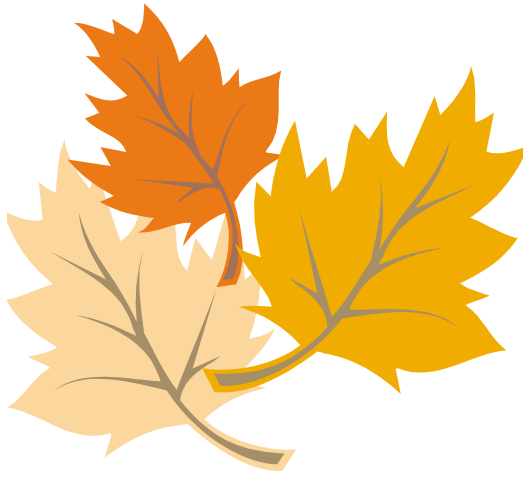
FREE TREE GUARDS

Costessey Parish Council have lots of Tubex tree shelters of various sizes and some stakes that they have taken off their (now established) planting. These are available free to anyone who can collect them.

Please contact the clerk, Mrs Rachel Jackson, direct on 01603 742958. If you are unable to collect, please give Robin a call (01508 533813) who will attempt to make alternative arrangements.

Tree Issue No.2 February 2000 line





Forthcoming events 2000

18 March	Trees Love Care (TLC) day
24 May	Evening Walk around the Parish of Wacton lead by Robert Maidstone.
June (to be confirmed)	Visit Long's Wood, Wreningham
5 July	Annual South Norfolk Forum at South Norfolk House
18-22 September	Ten Years of the Tree warden Scheme Exhibition at South Norfolk House.
23 or 24 September	Regional tree warden Forum in Suffolk
22 November to	
3 December	National Tree Week

All subject to confirmation and details will follow.



. . . and yet more feedback

Carol Carpenter sent this message:

Dear Editor,

What Joy! A newsletter of our own at last. Just what has been needed for the past 9 years. Now we can all communicate on any topic we fancy - New plantings, Veteran trees, Woodland maintenance, Community projects, Legislation, Practical help etc.

This is our opportunity to share with each other successes and failures, worries and delights and to offer help and support. Whether we are veterans ourselves or new recruits we all need to know that there are others out there labouring in their own areas to achieve the same aims. Lets hope that every South Norfolk Tree Warden will appreciate the efforts involved in this production and that all will take part with letters and articles of their own to swell the pages and encourage us.

THANK YOU.

Carol Carpenter (Langley with Hardley)

P.S. Any help needed with material please ring me on 01508 520830.

...and this from Councillor Richard Carden, Leader of South Norfolk Council:

Congratulations on the first issue of Treeline. I am sure it will contribute to the work of the tree warden scheme. I note, with regret, that two of my parishes do not yet have wardens. I am chasing this up with the chairs of their parish council/meetings.



On the trail of the Lonesome Pine

Free to Good Home(s)

Carol Carpenter (Hardley) and Eric Wilkinson (Chedgrave) have more trees than you can shake a stick at. Bring a spade/fork, boxes/bags and your energy to bear away whatever you need from Oak, Horse Chestnut, Ash, Birch..... Tel: (Carol) 01508-520830, (Eric): 01508-520774.

What's the Yews ?

In my peregrinations (no, I am not a falcon), I chanced to walk up a parishioner's drive to deliver some-thing and felt that the drive was rather more spacious than before. Then I realised that an enormous Yew had simply vanished since the last time I had been there.

I am inclined to offer the occupant one out of my nursery (250mm and growing!) but I also need to find out the history of the missing tree. Meanwhile I can only kick myself for not being aware of what was going on.

Woodentop



Interview with a Tree Warden

Don Bennett, Tree Warden for Long Stratton, talks to Ken Grayling

Those who know Long Stratton probably think of it as a dormitory village for Norwich, transfixed by the A140 and made up of too many Barratt-type houses. Any Tree Warden would probably be reduced to planting a few flowering cherry in the Shopping Centre.

So much for my misconceptions. When Robin Taylor at SNC heard that I wanted to do a series of interviews with Tree Wardens for TreeLine he suggested a couple of names who had made notable achievements among whom was Don Bennett. 'Ask about Wood Green', I was told.

Well, getting there is half the fun. I had never been that way before and Wood Green is quite removed from the built-up area. You also have to ignore the signs because you end up on the wrong side of the Green.

About 8 years ago the Green was a barren 22-acre common with two large ponds largely filled with reedmace. Bramble and grass tussocks predominated and about a quarter was grazed.

Don had been introduced to Tree Wardenry by Peter Smith (District Councillor for Long Stratton) and lives in a cottage on the edge of the Green. His project started him in the face every time he drew the curtains. So, having got the house sorted he got to work. The fact that a serious accident has left him stricken with Osteoporosis has not thwarted him and what follows is a testimony to his determination and

vision. His wife Maureen also assisted in spite of having her own parish of Shelton to look after.

The first task was to find out who owned the common. The owner proved extremely co-operative – Don had a free rein so long as it did not cost the owner anything. The next task was to enlist the support of the locals. Again, 97% were supportive, and so Don felt able to go out and get funding.

A £10,000 grant was forthcoming from SNC to finance the clearance of the understorey – basically to remove the rough stuff and clear the ground. Machinery had to be used given the size of the area and the robustness of the groundcover. 4½ acres were then planted with a total of almost 1,500 trees.

Five years ago the ponds were dug out amid scenes fit for 'You've Been Framed'. A digger literally sank (the pond was so full of vegetation that it was difficult to tell where it started), and required a considerable amount of horsepower to extract it. The pond had to be drained first (not a job for a saucepan!) Trees have been kept at least 35 metres away to reduce the amount of autumn litter in the ponds. The hard work has been rewarded as the ponds are now full of life – dragonflies and newts among the more common denizens.

The common now supports over 65 species of plants and includes 16½ acres of open grassland. About

three years ago the common won 2nd prize in the SNC Environmental Awards scheme. This money was used to restore the village well and pump which had been in a parlous state. Work for the future includes the installation of Barn Owl nesting boxes.

Don wishes to thank Peter Embling for his invaluable and ongoing help in this project. Peter had been a kind of guardian angel to the common for 20 years prior to the project – successfully campaigning against a pig farm planned alongside, as well as a proposal to clear and deepen the ponds to facilitate angling. Peter still works on the common, maintaining the new trees and generally keeping an eye on things.

Don's main hobby other than Wood Green is woodturning and he can offer a service creating artefacts from pieces of wood from memorable trees for very reasonable prices. Having seen some of his work I am sure that any tree would be happy to end its days rotating on his lathe! Oh, and he hopes Santa Claus will one day bring him a Quad Bike so he can actually get out and see the fruits of his labours for himself (I hear Rik Mayall has one slightly dented one available). Finally, he would like to find a really old map of the common – apparently one had been located in Norwich library – just before the fire that destroyed it.

Contact Don Bennett on (01508) 530683

NEWTREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

The last Tree Preservation Order of 1999 was served to protect two Beech trees at Forncett.

Concern had been raised that a proposed driveway, which is part of a planning application for two new dwellings, was too close to the trees and would cause damage to their roots.

The TPO was served in order to underline the trees' importance and ensure that the plans would be revised.

Amended plans have now been received and these allow for the space that the trees deserve.

The first TPO of the new Millennium has been served to protect a Sweet Chestnut next to the Church of St Michael and All Angels in Geldeston. The tree, which has a girth of approximately 6.4 metres, is on the site of a proposed graveyard and there is concern that its roots could be damaged if burials take place too close.

EAST CARLETON HEDGE UPDATE

In the last issue of *Treeline* we reported that a Hedgerow Protection Notice served to safeguard a hedge in the Parish of East Carleton was the subject of an Appeal. Unfortunately, the Planning Inspectorate ruled in favour of the appellant and upheld the Appeal.

The Hedgerow Protection Notice was served because the hedge was on the site of the former airfield which is classified as an archaeological site. The inspector considered, however, that the importance of the hedge was not substantiated by the evidence submitted.

On a positive note, the landowner plans to undertake replanting in the area to compensate for the loss of the hedge. This planting will, in time, help to screen a large hangar building.

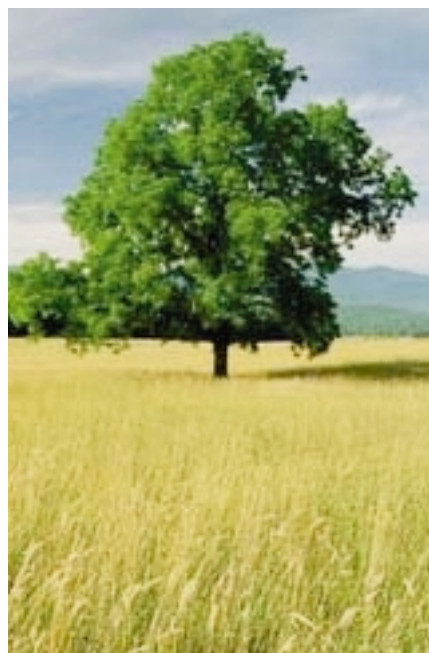
Hope for the END to Hedge problems?

The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) has published a consultation document "High Hedges - Possible Solutions". In it are outlined four different approaches to finding a way to deal with the many disputes that result from unsociable hedges.

The options range from doing nothing other than promoting existing procedures (such as neighbourly co-operation and action through civil courts) to introducing Primary Legislation to enable a complaints system that would be administered by Local Authorities.

South Norfolk Council has given a cautious welcome to the proposals and has recommended to DETR that a combination of elements from the options is used as a final solution.

We await DETR's final proposals!



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!

Contact address and Telephone:

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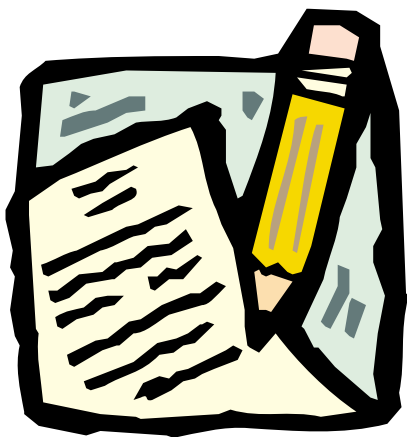
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It's all about sharing information and best practise so please contribute any item of interest, local or national activity. Your news and views will be most welcome.

What to call this Newsletter? Best suggestion so far is used here: 'TreeLine'; together with a 'symbol' presenting the 'South Norfolk Tree' - where there's a leaf there's a Warden!
Any ideas -put them in the (e)mail.



Write to us