



Tree Watch

Issue 19

November 2013

On 5th November we had **6842** trees in our database and **8213** photographs

Welcome to the November issue of Tree Watch. After a fruitful, colourful and warm autumn, we are approaching winter, but many of the trees still retain their leaves. As far as I know, Wokingham seems to have come through storm St Jude rather unscathed. There were quite a few broken branches, but only one large tree lost. That was a copper beech (MRN 4754 - see page 11) in St Andrews churchyard, Sonning and it took out an adjacent (non-veteran) horse chestnut when it fell. At Barkham Manor Farm a branch fell across a shed and killed ten turkeys. There was of course severe train disruption.

The recent regional Tree Warden conference (as reported by Janet on page 6) emphasised the value of 'stay-with-it' volunteers. Our veteran tree surveyors certainly come into that category, resulting in another 152 trees and 340 photos being added since September. The striking photo on this page was taken by Janet Firth, the Barkham Coordinator, and came from the last batch of recorded trees to be added to our database this month. It's MRN 7041, a coppiced ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with a girth of 3.19m at ground level. It adds another dimension to the 'Ash in the Landscape' theme and so I've added it to the ash folder on Yahoo.



So far we seem to have escaped the major disease threats. A local newsletter reported a sighting of the Asian Longhorn Beetle near Maidenhead; but this turned out to be a false alarm. FERA identified it as the goat moth, *Cossus cossus*. FERA has produced a useful document detailing the differences between the notifiable longhorn beetles (Asian & citrus) and native wood-borers. See tinyurl.com/woodborers

This time instead of reading suggestions (*does anyone ever look at them?*), I'm suggesting three short videos (see page 14). Thanks to Gordon, Fee, Janet, Kerry, Alison, Barbara, Patricia and Stephen for their excellent contributions this month.

The next issue of Tree Watch will be February 2014 and the copy deadline is 31st January. All comments and contributions please to: Elaine Butler datamanager@wdvta.org.uk

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Events planned:

- ❖ Wednesday 27th November 12:00 - elm planting (see page 7)
- ❖ Friday 6th December 11:00 - A Winter Walk at The Savill Garden, followed by lunch at a country pub.

Non-WDVTa events:

- ❖ Friday 29th November - Kennett Room, Reading Civic Centre (by the Hexagon) - Tree Diseases - How can we all help? John Stokes - Reading Tree Warden Event.
- ❖ Saturday 30th November - University of Oxford - An Extraordinary Year for England's Woodlands

For up-to-date information - see the events page on our website - wdvta.org.uk/events.php

EVENTS

Our next event is a winter walk on 6th December. Do join us if you can.

We had a very successful photography workshop in September. Numbers were limited and it was over-subscribed. The November event - a visit to Wentworth Arboretum - was postponed until the spring because we had few bookings.

A questionnaire will be circulated to all members soon, asking what sort of events you'd like. Please do take the time to complete and return it and that way we can hopefully provide events you want.

PHOTOGRAPHING TREES

Apart from a very late change of room at Dinton Pastures which meant we had no blackouts for the windows, the photography course on September 7th was very successful with 11 attendees. In just 3 hours, Rod Bird discussed camera basics and functions as well as picture composition. His three top tips are:

- Look carefully around the viewfinder before you press the button. It's easy to see just the lovely tree in front of you, but the camera will also record the telephones wires in the background.
- Get used to the display on the back of the camera and spot when something has been changed - by you by mistake, or by your other half/kids/grandkids. The setting most often changed by accident is Exposure Compensation, usually activated by pressing a button with "+/-" on it. It should be on zero unless you want to override the camera's choice of exposure.
- Good photos need good light. No ifs, no buts. Get used to it.

He used a presentation with some wonderful examples of each topic and many of his photographs were of trees in landscape settings. We all had to go outside and take our own tree photographs. He loaded our efforts and projected them with a commentary that was very constructively critical. He also ensured that everyone could understand the mode and exposure compensation features of our individual



cameras. He had an impressive knowledge of most of the cameras we had taken along. The feedback was very positive, "a very useful session" and "I keep remembering many of his practical tips". Rod runs small group and 1 to 1 photography training courses and is based in Maidenhead. See his details on www.ElectricLandscape.com.

Alison Griffin & Kerry Clissold

What Alison hasn't said is that she won the prize awarded by Rod for the best photo of 'trees in the landscape' taken by the participants. It's the one shown here. Well done Alison.

PHOTOS FOR THE VETERAN TREE SURVEY

There are many reasons for taking photos, but for the veteran tree survey we want a photo that will help us identify a tree again. With this in mind, I'd like to comment on Rod's three tips.

The first one is of course very important, but modern cameras can make it more difficult. If there is no viewfinder, it can be difficult to see fine detail on a screen in bright light. Then again phone lines and certain other unwanted items can be removed with photo editing programs (although not everyone wants to spend the time doing this). We actually quite like (often unsightly) telegraph poles and street signs in the photos on our database because they give location detail which is helpful when finding the tree again. You can always take two photos -with and without the offending intrusions.



The third tip is so true. But we are taking photos of our trees when we survey them. So often we need to take a photo from one particular viewpoint to show the tree, but the light is in the wrong place! Good surveying conditions are not always good for photography. As the man said: "Get used to it". A poor photo of a recorded tree is better than no photo, however unsatisfactory that might feel. Take a photo of a tree when you survey it, and if you want a good photo as well go back when the conditions are more suitable.

The second tip surprised me, but in a way is encouraging! When taking photos of trees they are often backlit - we are looking up into the tree with the light behind it. Using exposure compensation is very useful in these situations; but when I've mentioned this to people they often don't know what I'm talking about. This feature used to be buried in the menu, but has been moved to a more prominent position in more recent cameras (hence the need for the tip). That means it should be easy to identify and use and will result in better photos of our trees. Having set exposure compensation, some cameras remember the setting after turning off and some don't.

TREE STORIES

Prof Ian Rotherham from Sheffield Hallam University is running a project that might interest members. It's called 'Tree stories - the history and mystery of carved and worked trees and tree graffiti'. Overlooked and oft-forgotten, carvings on trees and tree bark are a fascinating part of human cultural history. They go back in time to prehistoric times, and as herding and pastoral cultures developed, tree markings were important in navigating through landscapes and for recording times, places, people and incidents. Tree carvings occur widely in woods and parks today, and he would like any pictures and comments sent to him. It is an interactive project to record and collect evidence of *culturally marked trees* - from estate plaques, to graffiti and carvings in the bark, from the present day to as far back as possible. This has never been done before and he thinks it provides an opportunity to get members of groups involved. Phase two of the project may produce a book on this subject.

Contributions are required by April 2014.

Please contact Ian Rotherham or Christine Handley: info@hallamec.plus.com
www.ukconet.org/community-projects/tree-stories/

Stephen Loyd

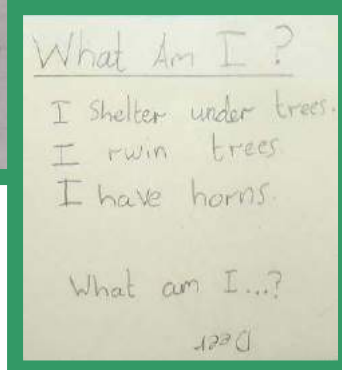
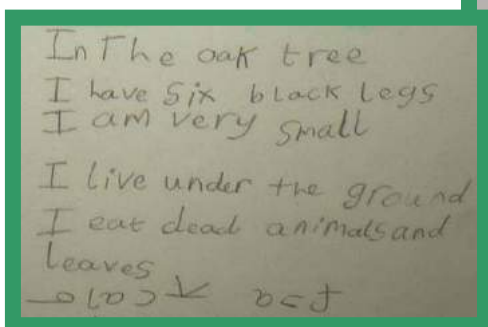
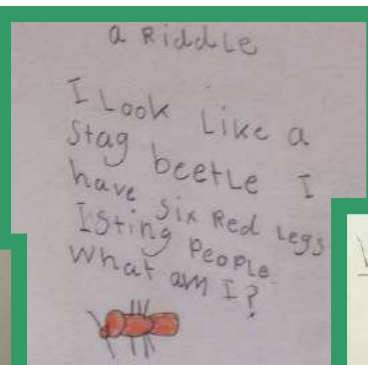
DIAMOND JUBILEE PLANTINGS

This was our very successful major project for 2012/13, expertly organised by Barbara Stagles. The project was the subject of a display at Wokingham Borough Council Offices at Shute End in October. The items to the left of the display (shown below) are "Riddles on Pennants" - riddles composed by year 2 students at Hawthorns Primary School, inspired by the planting of the Jubilee Oaks on the Woosehill Spine Road (No 21) and Woosehill Park (Nos 6 & 7). Poetry is an important part of the literacy curriculum for these pupils and it gave them a sense of purpose to create their riddles as a decoration to welcome the trees, as well as reflecting their science work on habitats.

Our photos here show the Mayor, UllaKarin Clark, with Stephanie McKay (the year 2 teacher) in front of the riddles; and a group at the opening of the display.

Wokingham Borough Council and
Wokingham District Veteran
Tree Association

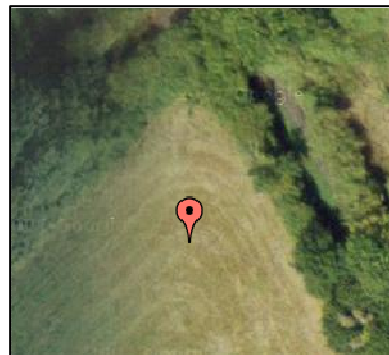
60 English Oak Trees planted for the
Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012



SOMETHING FOR THE LONG WINTER NIGHTS

If you have some time to spare, perhaps you could help the veteran tree survey from the comfort of your own home. Have a look at our webmap wdvta.org.uk/WDVTS and see if you can spot any errors. Are there any trees obviously in the wrong place?

Just scan the map and see whether you can spot any trees in the middle of treeless field (such as the one shown here) or on the top of a car park. When you do, fill in the contact form associated with the relevant tree record - just say - "this looks wrong" - and I'll follow it up.



Have a look on our map at the streets around where you live. Are any trees mislocated or with the wrong location description? Do the trees still exist? Are there any omissions? If every member had a quick look, we'd cover a lot of ground with minimal effort and our records could be enhanced considerably.

I look forward to getting some reports to occupy my long winter nights!!!

This month's

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CAPTCHA - *Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart* (first used in 2000).

We have added a CAPTCHA to the contact forms on our webmap. I'm sorry that you have this extra task, but we were getting more junk forms than valid ones and this prevents the junk. However, as well as preventing junk, you will be helping the 'World One Word at a Time' project. By entering the words in the box, you are



helping to digitize texts that were written before the computer age. One of the text segments that you see was taken directly from old texts that are being scanned and stored in digital format to preserve them and make them more accessible to everyone. Some of the words in these texts are difficult for computers to process, but your efforts will help decipher them.

GREEN SPACES 'CAN SAVE NHS BILLIONS'

This was a BBC headline on 6th November. The claim was made at an event to mark the culmination of the Woodland Trust's five-year VisitWoods project. It's estimated that £2.1bn per year could be saved in health-care costs if everyone had access to woodland and green spaces. There is increasing evidence to suggest that spending time in woods and parks can reduce levels of stress and promote 'higher degrees of life satisfaction'. Links have been made with reductions in obesity, allergies, asthma, dementia, autism and some mental health problems. There's even a new syndrome. Living exclusively in an urbanised environment leads to 'nature-deficit disorder'. It is estimated that only 14% of the UK's population have access to woodlands within 500m of their home. If that's true for the UK as a whole, it will be much lower for many of our towns and cities. The importance of green spaces within existing and new developments and the need to encourage people to use them is now being more widely recognised. The following two articles give examples of initiatives that help achieve these aims.

A SHARED VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY - BERKSHIRE RECORDERS' DAY

'Identifying veteran trees is a wonderful thing to do and a great combination of pleasure and purpose.' I so agreed with Anne Booth's statement in her Tree Watch Profile (issue 13) that I quoted it in my presentation about the WDVTA survey at the excellent September conference, 'A shared Vision for Biodiversity'. I wanted to stress in particular that part of the pleasure many of us have found in tree surveying derives from knowing our records are purposefully used.

The Wokingham Borough Council Trees and Countryside officers regularly consult our records and our data is sent to the Thames Valley Environmental Record Centre (TVERC) and the Woodland Trust for their regional and national records. Our information also forms part of a growing regional and national collection of environmental data of all kinds - including other plants, invertebrates and mammals. The more we know about the inter-relationship between the different elements of the natural environment, the more we understand what might be done to maintain and improve it, particularly in the context of climate change.

The Berkshire conference was just one contribution to this broader understanding. It was organised by TVERC www.tverc.org and the newly formed Berkshire Local Nature Partnership (BLNP), www.berkshirelnp.org which networks with other organisations 'to promote conservation and enhancement of nature in Berkshire and the benefits we receive from a healthy environment'. It was fascinating to hear about the sterling work being done by volunteers in the Berks and South Bucks Bat Group, the Berkshire Mammal Group and the Berkshire Invertebrate Group and to learn about the BLNP proposals for 'structured surveillance' to improve our knowledge of the natural environment.

I look forward to this interesting conference every year and this year was no exception. It was a great opportunity to meet others, including a number of WDVTA members, equally committed to involvement in environmental recording. Do look out for it next year and put it firmly in your diary.

Barbara Stables

'HEDGEROW HARVEST HISTORY' AND THE SOUTH-EAST REGION TREE WARDEN FORUM 2013

This was the title of the Tree Council's new project supported by the Heritage Lottery, launched in September at Hilliers Arboretum Education Centre, near Romsey, Hampshire. I was there at the suggestion of Barkham's Tree Warden Derek Oxbrough, who was on holiday and couldn't attend. It was a fascinating day.

The scene of the Forum was set by two very characterful people: Pauline Buchanan Black, the Director General of the Tree Council and Jon Stokes who acted as Chairman for the day. They are two of only four staff employed by the Tree Council. As a result Pauline began by pointing out just how important all 'stay-with-it' volunteers, including students on temporary placements, are to the organisation, not least Tree Wardens who, beginning in Hampshire and West Sussex, have now been in operation for at least 23 years.



The following talk was given by Sarah Wilson of the Campaign for National Parks, entitled '*People and Trees - Making the link*'. The Campaign is a small charity based in London which has identified the fact that particular groups in England and Wales are not normally in contact with the countryside. These she identified as blacks, Asians, minority ethnic groups including recent immigrants, 15 to 20 year olds, the disabled and people of low socio-economic backgrounds living in cities (all referred to as 'BAME' - 'blacks, Asians, and minority ethnic'). Reasons might include ignorance, lack of interest, transport, the cost of travel *etc*.

It is obvious that most members of voluntary groups such as the National Trust are 95% white. Sarah manages a series of projects named 'Mosaics' in order to increase the number of those other groups involved. Apparently environmental groups usually have only 14% volunteers from a 'BAME' background. She gave examples of some successes, including a young woman from Zimbabwe named Lucy, who had lived in the UK for about 14 years but had never left her urban environment as she believed that the countryside was private and she was not invited to go into it. Once she understood and was given encouragement she became involved with a group working in the countryside and learnt like many others to love, respect and begin to feel responsible for it. Another example was Adil, a Moslem who, following sessions with a work party in woodland in North London, became a South Downs National Park Ranger, extolling the relationship between Islam and nature.

Just before lunch, Pauline spoke about the Friends of The Tree Council. The Gift Aid element of their donations is distributed to local Tree Warden Group to be used as they choose. [On the application form is a box to complete "I ... want to support the Tree Wardens closest to"]. This time it was the turn of the WDVTA Wardens to receive a cheque for £100. Standing *in lieu* of one of them I happened to be the only

person from the Borough present to receive the cheque, which was enlarged for photographic purposes. The real thing has been sent to Stephen Loyd, our Tree Warden coordinator.

Back to the Hedgerow Harvest History idea; we were told about this after lunch. This is a hedgerow foraging project with the aim of encouraging a new generation to use traditional management techniques in order to increase food production from a hedge and to demonstrate the wealth of food which can be obtained. A long table was laid with jams and preserves for us to taste, including blackberry and bramble sauce, blackberry jelly, damson and sloe jam, crab-apple and rosehip jelly *etc* and elderflower wine (the latter made by Jon Stokes). To achieve this aim, one idea is to interview those who remember foraging from hedgerows for fruits in the Second World War (or, speaking personally and for many in the audience, did then and still do!) and record their experiences. The conservation and rejuvenating of hedges and harvesting the fruit will be important aspects of this project, which is being lead by a Tree Council appointee, Margaret Lipscombe, supported by Jon Stokes. The scheme is initially focusing on the three counties of Hampshire, West Sussex and the Isle of Wight. Volunteers will be trained in interviewing techniques in order to collect oral histories of foraging. We were asked for our experience of foraging. My experience during WWII always seemed to be tied in with falling into cowpats on the way to or from the hedge in question, being not very big at the time.



We were given a splendid tour of the gardens and Arboretum during the afternoon by John Hillier, a member of the fourth generation of the family to be involved with it; his sons, a nephew and a son-in-law also work there. The original Nursery was begun in 1864 by his great-grandfather in Winchester and gradually his sons expanded the business until they owned six nurseries around the city, including the one in Jermyns Lane, Romsey. The Arboretum there now consists of 188 acres. Many of the conifers there were planted by John's

grandfather, whilst John's father planted a wide range of other plants in the 144 acres remaining as garden. The commercial nursery and garden centre are still owned by the family, but 'The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum' was given to Hampshire County Council in 1977 and is managed as a Charitable Trust. Hilliers provide the staff to work in all areas, employing twelve gardeners, two arborists and two students, but rely heavily on 100 volunteers.

The range of plants is quite enormous and I took photographs of some of those in flower which were rather more exotic than similar species in our garden, such as sedums and crocosmia. Mr Hillier was very generous with his time and we learnt a great deal about the family's acquisition of many plants from all corners of the world as well as enjoying the beauty of the layout.



It was a very full and enjoyable day, added to which we were given lunch and had time to chat to old and new acquaintances.

Janet Firth



A NEW ELM FOR WOKINGHAM.

With the £100 given to us by the Tree Council, Stephen has bought a disease-resistant elm tree (*Ulmus minor*) which will be planted in the open space between Malvern Way and the Bath Road, Twyford (SU 788 772) on 27th November, during National Tree Week. All Tree Wardens have been invited to the planting ceremony. This open space is already home to Jubilee Oak No 38.

You can see other recently planted elms at Long Barn Recreation Ground, Long Barn Lane, off the Basingstoke Road (SU 7201 7129). Last year the Reading Tree Wardens planted six 'extra heavy standard' elm trees to extend the existing Elm Avenue planted in 2009. The photo on the left was taken in July 2012.

For more on elms see web suggestions on page 14.

TREES COULD MONITOR AIR POLLUTION.

Air pollution must be a contributing factor to nature-deficit disorder (see page 5). Accurate monitoring of air pollution needs expensive equipment, but a recent paper (sent to me by Rachel Sanderson) suggests that it may be possible to use trees to monitor levels of air pollution in cities. A study conducted in Gent, Belgium, showed that leaves of urban lime trees change both chemically and physiologically when exposed to different levels of air pollution. If these changes can be quantified, trees could provide cheap and widespread bio-indicators of pollution. In the study, chlorophyll content of the leaves was significantly lower and the amount of light reflected from the upper and lower surfaces consistently higher in the more polluted areas of the city; the lower chlorophyll content being a contributing factor to the increased reflectivity. Methods for measuring reflectance are well developed and could provide a reliable and comparatively cheap means of assessing air pollution in urban areas. Sensitivity to pollutants is species specific and so more research is needed before trees as air-pollution monitors can be introduced universally; but perhaps that's the purpose of these lime trees in large elevated tubs in Triton Square (Regents Place, Camden, NW1).

This and other research has shown that particulate pollutants are trapped by hairy-leaved lime species. These trees can be used as effective barriers between houses and roads.



HOLIDAY TREES: UMBRELLA OAKS AND PLANE TREES WITH GAITERS

The Villa del Balbianello is built on and into a rocky promontory on Lake Como in Italy. The Italian National Trust manages the villa and its garden, which has been shaped and enriched over the last 50 years. Entry is free to English National Trust members. Holm oaks, *Quercus ilex*, have spread their broad dome-shaped crowns over a lawn between the villa and the lake. Two men maintain the shape and density of the trees by putting a ladder up against the trunk and climbing through the branches to emerge on top of the tree with their shears. It takes them two



weeks to trim one tree.

Plane trees, *Platanus x hispanica*, are planted beside the garden paths. When I visited, the magnificent coloured patches of the bark glowed in soft daylight after rain. This is the only place where I have seen ivy trimmed to a uniform height on trees. It looks as though they are standing to attention, and must be particularly striking when the trees are bare of leaves.

Patricia Green

PROFILE - GORDON VEITCH

Gordon is the coordinator for Finchampstead and served on the committee for many years. He has led a very successful WDVTA walk around his parish and enthusiastically supported both the Jubilee Tree and the Heritage Tree projects.

When first invited to write a personal profile by Elaine I was a bit reluctant but agreed to rise to the challenge. Elaine helpfully supplied me with a copy of the profiles written by other members and previously published. Did I find these helpful? Well, yes and no! All are very interesting, relevant and inspiring, but how do I follow that? Well here goes.

Born and brought up in north-east Cumberland, with close views of the northern Pennines and not far from Hadrian's Wall, the countryside and views were magnificent and wrapped all around you. My early years were spent roaming the countryside helping, or perhaps hindering, on the farm next door. My early hopes were to become a farmer. Would you believe that at this time, 1950's, they were still farming with horses! I recall the day the first tractor, a large blue Fordson, arrived on the back of a lorry. No-one could drive it and the local bus driver had to be called in to help! Happy days!



Farming was not to be. After my O Levels, I left Cumberland to join the RAF aged 16! After ten years RAF service in early 1972 I joined the embryonic computer industry working for ICL in their brand new building on the Southern Industrial Area at Bracknell. This building at Lovelace Road still stands in pride of place overlooking the Bracknell skyline. I spent the next 34 years with ICL and subsequently Fujitsu in various roles and locations, travelling the world and mostly enjoying it!

I moved to Finchampstead in 1976 and have remained there ever since; bringing up a family and developing a wide group of friends. In more recent years I joined the Finchampstead Parish Council and this led to me becoming a trustee of Wokingham United Charities. WUC runs the Alms Houses at Westende, close to the Ship Inn. The charity also has a remit to provide financial support to people in need in the Wokingham and surrounding area.

Throughout my life I have retained that initial love of the countryside, wildlife and agriculture and I guess this led me to volunteer to be the Finchampstead coordinator when the initial request came from Barbara via the parish council. Back in Cumberland we were surrounded by great trees in the landscape; mainly oak & beech. The beech trees in particular seem popular with red squirrels which are still found in this part of Cumberland.

Tree recording in Finchampstead is a significant task, lots of trees! Although we have made good progress, there is still some way to go. Probably the single most enjoyable bit of recording for me was Wellingtonia Avenue, with something like 100 of these magnificent trees now in the database.

Gordon Veitch

AFTER THE FELLING!

Many readers will have heard me tell how the felling of a beautiful mature oak for development just near our home led to the foundation of WDVTA in 2005.

A lost old tree can never be properly replaced but it was encouraging when, about four years ago, Jon Matthews of the WBC Trees and Landscape team arranged for a new oak to be planted in the vicinity of the old one. This is growing well but the original hedge in which it grew along one edge of a WBC children's play area off Manor Road, Wokingham, had become overgrown with brambles and dead elms.

A small group of neighbours of a newly formed Evendons Area Residents' Association (EARA) has now taken up the challenge to improve the hedge. With permission from WBC, an application to the

Woodland Trust for 60 saplings was made. This was successful and on Sunday morning, October 20th, thirteen volunteers turned up with their tools to clear the old vegetation. A local businessman arranged for the rubbish to be bagged and removed.

The saplings are expected in early November and there will be another work party to plant them. Residents have agreed to weed, water and maintain the hedge as it grows. This was the first EARA activity and an excellent opportunity to get to know neighbours. I think we might call this Tree Wardening in action.

Photos: Right: Some neighbours at work - others watching! Replacement oak in front of new houses.

Below: The work party.



Barbara Stagles

DID YOU KNOW? About one third of all PCs in the world currently run Windows XP.

Support for Windows XP will cease in April 2014. This means there will be no more security updates and hence you should stop using it (unless your computer never accesses external sources). You can only update to Windows 7 or 8 if your computer has at least 2GB RAM. This will mean that a lot of older computers will be scrapped, creating electronic waste. However, if you switch to Ubuntu, a Linux operating system, you can continue to use your old computer - and what's more it's free (unlike Windows). Because of the ecological consequences of the dumping of otherwise functional machines, the Ecological Democratic Party (ODP) in Germany plans to distribute the citizens of Munich with free CDs of Ubuntu. You can download it from www.ubuntu.net

Note - Your existing programs may not run on the new operating systems. You can check Windows compatibility on their 'Windows Compatibility Center' website. Whether you switch to Linux or upgrade to Windows 7 (or 8), the hard disc needs to be reformatted as part of the installation. You can't simply upgrade from XP. So you will have to save all your data and find your original program installation discs before upgrading. Allow plenty of time!

There will be no more security updates for Office 2003 either, and although the security risks are not as great as they are for the continued use of XP, you could consider upgrading to a later Office version or switching to LibreOffice (which is free - just Google it).

SADLY DEPARTED

We have lost several of the trees in our database recently

This handsome copper beech (MRN 4754) with a girth of 3m in St Andrew's churchyard, Sonning was recorded in 2007. It was blown down by storm St Jude last month and collapsed onto the red horse chestnut behind it in this photo (taken by Alastair Driver last summer). Both were subsequently felled.

Whilst at St Andrews, I found that a large lime (MRN 3755 with a girth of 3.95m) and a coppiced hazel (MRN 4756 with a girth of 6.1m) had both been felled some time ago.



The lime, beech and horse chestnut have been felled to (almost) ground level (the beech remains are shown here). There are piles of wood chippings, but no dead wood left on the ground. Aesthetic considerations are presumably considered more important than ecological ones.

Two lovely, prominent oaks (MRNs 6393 & 6394 shown below) at the junction of Old Wokingham Road and Easthampstead Road were felled to improve the sight lines at that junction. They have gone completely - not even a low stump remains.



Another oak (MRN 1358) on the Wokingham-Reading border in Green Park died and was subsequently felled. Being subject to a TPO, there will be a replacement planting here.



Finally, there was the demise of a much-loved apple tree (MRN 1855) in Janet Firth's garden in Barkham. A variety called *'Beauty of Bath'*, it was a survivor from a former orchard believed to be over 100 years old. It had already been struck by lightning when it was recorded in September 2008. A year later it had died, and in June this year it succumbed to the effects of the wind and was blown down.

What's in a name? - Part Three

Phew! We are now in the final straight and the most fun part writing the first ever descriptive article for a new species - the protologue. On publication the species is immortalized forever as is the discoverer.

One important job during the literature search but before beginning the write up is to revisit the tree several times throughout the year to collect several sets of plant material for preservation. Why will become apparent under the holotype/isotype heading.

What I shall produce now is a protologue document, but as we are limited to two pages it will be an extremely concise version but all the relevant sections are included. As I write the article a few explanations (in the boxes) are required. So here we go...

A new species of *Quercus* L. (Fagaceae) from Berkshire, United Kingdom

A. Homo-Sapien, Department of Plant Science, Faculty of Science, University of Planet Earth, A city somewhere, Some country or another, Some kind of postal code.
email: a.homosapien@universityofplanetearth.org

Received DD MMM YYYY Accepted [about 3-6 months later]
Published [within a month or two of acceptance]

Abstract

A new tree species of Fagaceae, *Quercus fictitious* collected from local ancient woodland in Wokingham, Berkshire is described and illustrated. It is easily distinguishable from native and European species by its mature purple acorns, wavy lobed cupules and trilobate leaves.

Keywords

Quercus fictitious, new species, Fagaceae, Berkshire,
Vice County 22, purple acorns

Introduction

Quercus is a large genus (approx. 600 species) from family Fagaceae. *Quercus* comprises evergreen or deciduous trees or shrubs. The genus is distributed in temperate and sub tropical zones of N. America, N. Africa, Europe and Asia and high altitude tropics. Only two native *Quercus* species occur in the U.K., *Q. robur* and *Q. petraea*. This novel species was discovered during the veteran tree survey by the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association (2007 ongoing: www.wdvta.org.uk). By comparing U.K. and European *Quercus* species from plant material and DNA analysis, this plant is a novel species which is described here.

Quercus fictitious A. Homo-Sapien, sp. nov.

Type:

United Kingdom, Berkshire, Wokingham, some ancient woodland.
Latitude: XX° XX' XX" N, Longitude: XX° XX' XX" W, Altitude:
XX m, 21 June 2013 (discovery date), A. Homo-Sapien 12345
(the collectors name and their designated collection number).

Holotype: RNG; Isotypes: BM, E, P, B, K

Etymology

A 'fictitious' epithet for our imaginary novel species.

Diagnosis

Quercus fictitious is a deciduous tree. It differs from other European species by having mature purple acorns, wavy edged acorn cupules and trilobate leaves (figure 1).

Accepted: editor/s read it, gave it to a couple of critical reviewers they suggested changes, returned to editor then author - changed, returned to editor, rechecked backwards and forwards the article goes until done! Frustrating!!!

The **abstract** and 6-10 **keywords** are for literature scanning by reader. These are now crucial for electronic search engines.

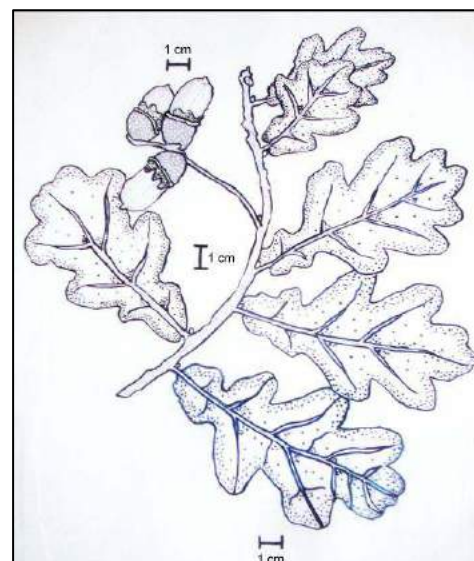


Figure 1. Normally any image would also show flowers

DNA sequences

The following sequence has been uploaded to GenBank: Region/Accession number: 18S XX000000.1.

Description (start at the bottom of the plant work upwards)

Tree. Deciduous.

Root - only usually described for non-woody plants;

Trunk - fissured, grey-brown;

Branch - grey-brown, oval shaped;

Twig - grey-brown, 4 clustered buds at end, buds in leaf nodes;

Leaves - opposite, no petiole, hairless, apex rounded, base rounded, 3-lobed, lobes rounded, dark green above, lighter below, reticulate veins, length 10-15 cm, width 5-8 cm;

Flower - monoecious, insignificant, 6 petalled, pale green;

Fruit - Nut 5 cm x 2 cm, immature green, mature purple in 2 years, cupule green top wavy edged.

Flowering and fruiting

Flowers March-April, fruiting August-October

Distribution

Only known from the type location.

Ecology

Located in a well lit area of an ancient deciduous woodland. Soil taxonomy: Hurst Series: thick organic material split into distinguishable leaf and humus layers above sand-clay loam over river gravel. Good drainage.

Discussion Waffling about how this species differs from others. Very boring even for me!

Acknowledgements Recognition of funders, woodland owners, organisations *etc.*, who helped.

References printed or online material used to produce this protologue.

Holotype/Isotype:

Collected plant material must be preserved at multiple locations in case of disaster.

A new species is described from one set of the collected material and designated as the holotype. This material is sent to the local herbarium - University of Reading (RNG).

The duplicates - isotypes are sent to other herbaria (BM: National History Museum, E: Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, P: Paris, B: Berlin, K: Royal Botanic Gardens Kew).

Species epithet

Maybe named after a person, location, a particular feature but never ever the author.

DNA

The genetic blueprint to make an organism. To explore real DNA visit *Q. robur* at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/EF208969.1> DNA is the bit at the bottom of the page with rows of c,g,a,t,u

If you wish to examine other protologues see <http://www.pensoft.net/journals/zookeys/> for animals <http://www.pensoft.net/journals/phytokeys/> and plants.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about this topic as much as I did writing it. Now I'm off to name a new species for real!!!

Fee Young

"Where tree retention or planting is proposed in conjunction with nearby construction, the objective should be to achieve a harmonious relationship between trees and structures that can be sustained in the long term. The good practice recommended in this British Standard is intended to assist in achieving this objective. BS 5837:2012 is applicable whether or not planning permission is required."

BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations - overview

Survey snapshot

- 384 - verified records in the database
- 5.6% - of trees recorded have been verified
- 312 - by WDVTS verification process (form shown here)
- 81% - of total verifications done by WDVTS verifiers
- 19% (72) - duplicate (independent) recordings
- 5% (18) - independent recordings by ATH or TROBI
- 6% (24) - independent recordings by arboricultural surveys as part of planning applications

MORIS verification for tree 1716					
Verificator(s)	D.S.#		Date	DB ID/DB ID	
	Y/N	Record	Record	Record	Miss/ok
Reason for verification					
Y = in all columns the category					
PRIN	Delimited entry	NO	delimited entry		
Recorder ID / alias	noted AS				
Original date	10/20/2006				
Grid identifier	02 70278 00307				
Number of entries	13				
Gr-B-103	0.2				
DB					
Common Name	Yucca yucca				
Scientific Name(s)	Yucca yucca				
Family Group	Agave		101,102,103,104,105		
Setting	wooded / Phragmites / Open				
Local use	common use as a medicinal plant of native people				
Typical	Y				
Tree Height	10m				
Tree Diameter	4.5m - 5.0m				
Tree Diameter 2			Missed or None		
PRIN	0270278 00307				
Access					
Access					
Category					
Access					
Verificator's signature					
Y = in all columns the category					
Reason for access					





If you'd like to help verify our records - email datamanager@wdvta.org.uk

Some recommendations from the Yahoo Group:

WEBSITES: - *all about elms*

- ① www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/project_info.php?id=2 - The Great British Elm Experiment
- ① www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/content.php?id=147 - London's Elm Heritage Map and other useful links (including identification guide)
- ① www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/british-natural-history/urban-tree-survey/results-and-findings/results-map/index.php - Elm trees recorded by the Natural History Museum survey (those in Long Barn Rec Ground are not included! - watch out for ours on that map soon).

SHORT VIDEOS:-

- ① www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2xPNishYkg - The Ankerwycke Yew (opposite Runnymede) and the plans to install a walkway there.
- ① www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/plantHealth/pestsDiseases/clb/clbVideo.cfm - Citrus longhorn beetle.
- ① www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xf8fil_DWOM - Brief background to ash die-back.

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The views and opinions expressed in Tree Watch are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the official policy or position of the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association.

Don't forget: The latest database and all the latest files relating to the survey are on the Yahoo site:

groups.yahoo.com/group/WDVTA

Details of all trees in our database are available via the web map pages: wdvta.org.uk/WDVTS

Finally, and most importantly,
THANK YOU to everyone who is out there recording our trees.
We wouldn't have a database without you.