



Tree Watch

Issue 24

February 2015

On 25th February we had **7238** trees in our database and **9161** photographs

Welcome to the twenty-fourth issue of Tree Watch. You might be wondering why I've got this photo on the front page again. It's not just because it's a nice photo! It was entered in the Bracknell Parks Photo competition. This year the theme was "Old and New". Barbara's photo "Veteran meets veteran" was highly commended and will be displayed in South Hill Park's Long Gallery between 7th February and 5th April.

Please vote with your Waitrose Green Tokens

WDVTA are one of the three charities in the Wokingham Waitrose Community Matters green token scheme this month. If you shop at Waitrose in Wokingham, please help our funds by voting with your token. We will need to fund the renewal for our website this year and will use the Waitrose donation towards these costs.



Our next event is the AGM on 31st March at Dinton Pastures. Please do come along and hear about what we've done in the last year and our plans for the future. Perhaps you have some suggestions we could take on board. Chris Hannington, the new head of Trees and Landscape at Wokingham Borough Council will be telling us about his department's role in the protection of our trees.

A new item in this issue is "Species in Focus", following a format used by the Berkshire Mammal Group for their "Mammal of the Month" feature. I'm starting with the Oriental Plane (see page 12). Several of the oaks we have recorded originated in Windsor Forest, which once extended to cover much of our Borough. On page 9 Linda Martin gives us a fascinating insight into the history of this unique home to so many veteran and ancient trees. Incidentally her searches illustrate the problem we all have when trying to find information. Her main source is the *"Fourth Report of the commissioners for road and bridges in the highlands of Scotland"*. Would you have thought to read a report on road and bridges in the highlands of Scotland for information about trees in Windsor Forest?

The next issue of Tree Watch will be May 2015 and the copy deadline is 30th April. If you have comments or responses to anything in this issue or contributions for future issues please send them to: Elaine Butler - datamanager@wdvta.org.uk

Main items in this issue:-

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| p2 Events ; AGM | p7 Ivy - Friend or Foe |
| p3 Tree Warden Activities | p8 Profile: Linda Martin |
| p4 Commemorative and Special Trees | p9 Acronyms: TROBI |
| p4 The Veteran Tree Survey | p9 Windsor Forest |
| p4 Barkham Veteran Tree Survey | p12 Species in Focus - Oriental Plane |
| p6 Sadly Departed | p13 FAQ - Mapping several trees/points |
| p7 Surveying in Bracknell | p13 Fee Young's Tree Science Column |
| p7 Updates on items in November issue | p14 Very Sad News - Oliver Rackham |

Events - February - May 2015

- ❖ Tuesday 31st March - WDVTA AGM - 19:30 - 21:30 - The Emmbrook Room, Dinton Pastures
- ❖ Sunday 17th May - Walk at Hampstead Norreys led by Dick Greenaway - 13:50

Non-WDVTA events

- ❖ Saturday 21st March - Ancient Trees of Burnham Beeches - booking required - burnham.beeches@cityoflondon.gov.uk or 01753 647358

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

AGM

Kerry Clissold

Date: Tuesday 31 March 2015, 7.30pm - 9.30pm.

Venue: The Emmbrook Room, Dinton Pastures

This will be our 8th, yes 8th, AGM. So much has been achieved to date and yet there is still more to do. Come along to the meeting and hear the latest round up of the survey. There will also be a presentation about the current projects Tree Wardens are involved in, and even an opportunity to sign up and become one.

Past and forthcoming events will be reported. We have some really good speakers coming up this year amongst other things. These events are added to the website and also appear in Tree Watch so keep an eye open for something that appeals to you.

Chris Hannington, Trees and Landscapes Manager at WBC has kindly accepted our invitation to come along and offer a Q&A session. We are asking members to submit their question at least a week in advance of the meeting as Chris is newly employed in Wokingham and it will be helpful to allow him the chance to provide a full answer. Question forms will be sent out to members very soon, along with calling papers and nomination forms. Please think about anyone you feel should be nominated to be on the Committee; but do ensure that they are willing to stand before putting a name forward.

Finally, we are still without a Chairman or Vice Chairman. If you know of anyone who has experience in this area who might be willing to fill either of these positions please contact Kerry by emailing honsec@wdvta.org.uk to discuss. We would also value a minutes secretary. Perhaps you have these skills but aren't able to go out recording trees. Helping in this way would be just as valuable to the work of the Association. Someone with past experience in publicity or advertising would also be extremely useful to promote our work more widely. Everyone has something different to offer. Please think about it - it may be suggesting a friend, neighbour or perhaps it is you we are looking for. You will be most welcome; the Committee is friendly, supportive and not too time-consuming. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM if you can come along; if not we will still be very pleased to hear from you.

EVENTS

Kerry Clissold

Many of you will know Dick Greenaway from his talks on woodland archaeology. He's leading a walk for us at Hampstead Norreys on 17th May. Hampstead Norreys is a very ancient settlement. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book and its church is even older. The nearby Park and Down Woods contain a prehistoric burial mound dating from the Bronze Age and many other visible remains of the woods' use by the community over the centuries. They also have a rich flora which emphasises this history. The walk is only about a mile and half long but can take a couple of hours because there is so much to see!

Dick will be following up this walk with a talk about "*Woodlands since the Ice Age*" on Tuesday 22nd September, so watch out for details of this event on our website.

TREE WARDEN ACTIVITIES

St Paul's Hedgerow tree planting

Barbara Stables

St Paul's church, Wokingham organised a hedge planting day on November 15th using Woodland Trust tree saplings chosen for their benefit to wildlife. Helpers included church and community members of the church/community Tree Succession project team, members and friends of the church and scouts.



The community payback scheme workers will plant the few remaining saplings and new sites in the Borough are being found for 4 packs of oak saplings not suitable for the church site. The new hedge runs along the boundary between the church yard and land owned by Network Rail and will provide improved habitats for wildlife and biodiversity.

Jubilee Oaks

So far only one Jubilee Oak has died (#25 in Finchampstead) and that was replaced on 3rd December.

The one planted at The Piggott School (#34) was decorated for Christmas by the schoolchildren. The messages all said "thank you" to the volunteers who manage the site for wildlife. The site is used to support the national curriculum. In 2011 The Piggott School was awarded £9,910 by the "Big Lottery Fund" to provide a wildflower and community area with a pond and orchard. It enabled the school to transform a large neglected area of an old orchard into a diverse area for educational purposes.



COMMEMORATIVE & SPECIAL TREES

Six entries have been added since the last issue. For more details see: wdvta.org.uk/commem.php

One of them (W037) is a Yew tree planted in 2000 in Ruscombe Churchyard. Stephen Loyd noticed a metal plaque that states:

"Yews for the millennium. This yew was presented by the Conservation Foundation to celebrate the third Christian millennium".



Following this up, the website (www.conservationfoundation.co.uk) describes 7,000 young yews being propagated from 43 of the UK's oldest living trees and planted to celebrate the millennium (in 2000 of course). They were planted in parishes throughout the UK. In 2010 the Conservation Foundation asked the "guardians" of these trees to give them a ten year health check and report back on their growing conditions. Was there such a report for the one at Ruscombe? Are there other Millennium Yews planted in the Borough? We have yet to find the answers to these questions. Do let me know if you have any further information about these plantings. The foundation distributed these Millennium yews to "churches, parishes, schools, colleges, hospitals, community centres, ancient woodland and public parks". So it is quite possible that there is more than one within our Borough.

"While the world churns around it, the yew stands a silent witness to centuries of history in the way no other tree does."

The Conservation Foundation website

THE VETERAN TREE SURVEY

For obvious reasons the November to February period is not popular for surveying, although it does have the advantage of easier access before the nettles and brambles take over. We have recorded a number of new trees but we've also continued our pruning programme and have deleted some oaks with a girth of less than 2.5m from the main database. There are still another 27, but these need more careful examination before they are removed. The net result is we have 3 fewer trees than in November!

Alison Griffin is spearheading a very welcomed campaign to get photos for as many of our recorded trees as possible:

Photographing our trees

Alison Griffin

Our database has more photographs than recorded trees, but can you estimate how many of the trees in the database have no photograph? Well it is very surprising; it is 20%, 1488 of all the trees recorded.

Could you help to reduce this number? If you could help, please send an email to me at treasurer@wdvta.org.uk I'm organising a project to try to photograph a substantial number of these trees this year. We'll prioritise the trees that are publicly accessible or publicly visible.

Veteran Tree Survey snapshot

13

*of our trees are on
the Tree Register
(see page 9) in:*

6

Parishes

2

*Britain & Ireland
Champions for girth*

9

*County Champions
for girth*

11

Species

Barkham Survey Completed

As mentioned in the last issue, the veteran tree survey has been completed in Barkham. A full report will be issued in due course, but in the meantime I'd like to highlight a few aspects.

There are 879 Barkham trees in our database, with 855 photos. In addition they have recorded some 50 trees on private property where the owners have not given permission for their details to be included in our public database. Only 24 of the Barkham trees have no photos; and I suspect the number will be reduced later this year. Many have more than one, with a lovely Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*) MRN 1887 having nine. Two are shown below, but do look at the others on the website!

Oriental Planes were introduced into England around 1550, but not widely planted until the mid 18th century. We don't know of any planting records for Barkham Manor, but the similar sized specimen behind Montague House is not shown in a 1739 engraving and therefore is not more than 200-250 yrs old, which would mean it was planted in the middle of the 18th century. I suspect the Barkham one was also planted about 1750. Although it is on private land, it is visible from an adjacent bridleway.



Another very notable tree in Barkham has been nominated as a Heritage Tree (see Tree Watch 18 - August 2013 page 3). This is MRN 6932, an English Oak in Elizabeth Park with a girth of 4.7m at 0.7m.



Just over 50% of the recorded trees are on private land and not accessible or visible to the general public. They have recorded 42 different species, with the most frequently recorded (as in other parishes) being the oak. Maidens and multi stems predominate (64% and 30% respectively), with just 8 pollards, 15 coppices and 28 stumps.

Barkham has a lovely avenue of Common Limes (*Tilia x europaea*), planted by John Walter III in 1885-6. It's a double avenue with 4 rows of trees, each with about 20 trees 8m apart. Do look on our webmap for more details and photos; typing 5335 into the tree number search box will take you there.

This avenue is currently not publically accessible, although of course we did visit it on our Barkham walk in May 2010. You can see it from Rooks Nest Country Park (entrance in Barkham Ride) and there are aspirations to incorporate it into the Country Park.



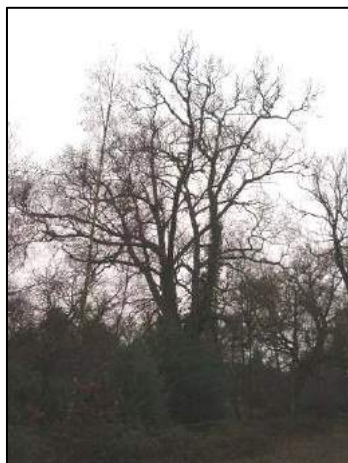
Barkham's Lime Avenue



Incidentally we'd be very interested to know of any other 4-line lime avenues. Is the one in Barkham unique?

The Coombes Woods, which straddles the parishes of Barkham and Arborfield & Newland, has some lovely trees. Barkham has recorded a number of old yews and oaks there, especially this lovely veteran English Oak in the Coombes Woods - MRN 7666 with a girth of 5.52m (below).

The photo below on the left was taken during the WDVTA walk on 1st May 2010 (by Michael Rea) and the one of the right just last November. You see it's lost some branches in the last four years.



SADLY DEPARTED - MRN 1892 - English Oak in Barkham Manor

This lakeside oak with a girth of 4.54m came crashing down across the lake onto the opposite bank on Boxing Day. It would be about 300 years old.

This is (was) one of 49 oaks with a girth of over 4.5m in Barkham. There are 24 with a girth of 5m or more. The largest English Oak recorded in Barkham is MRN 7015 with a girth of almost 7m.



Could you help train Bracknell surveyors?

Alison Griffin

As you may know, Dr Dan Carpenter, the biodiversity officer for Bracknell Forest, contacted us last year as he would like to get the veteran trees in Bracknell Forest surveyed and recorded. The Bracknell Forest Natural History Society are interested in running this project and on **April 25th** and **June 20th** this year we will be running a two-stage training course for them at South Hill Park. We are looking for some of our surveyors to help with the practical side of the training days. If you are able to come along and help on one or both of the days, then please get in touch with Kerry, Elaine or Alison. We don't yet know the numbers that we will be training, so are not sure how many volunteers we may need, but offers of help will be very much appreciated. Thank you!

UPDATES ON ITEMS FROM THE NOVEMBER ISSUE

Sonning (tree) Cutting

Alistair Driver has had further meetings with the representatives of Network Rail on site (and another is scheduled for 13th March) and confirmed that the work there is proceeding in accordance with the agreed plan of action; that plan having been drawn up by Alistair.

Sadly Departed - MRN 577

This fine oak tree forming part of the green corridor along the Finchampstead Road was felled last November because it was considered dangerous. The felling statement has been attached to this record on our website. *[On our webmap, search for tree number 577, click on "Full record" and then click on the "Felling Statement" - a related document for this record.]* The good news is that this tree will be replaced.



Ivy - Friend or Foe

*We had a few responses to the articles in the last issue, and I think you'll be interested to read **Martin Woolner's** views. Many of you will have heard his excellent talks about a variety of topics. His talk on Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe is particularly relevant to this topic.*

My attitude to the coexistence of ivy and trees depends very much on the particular circumstance presented to me "in the field". If I feel that the tree is serving some anthropocentric purpose i.e. is of use/value to ME or the human species particularly, I might do something about controlling ivy, like cutting it off the tree before it becomes a problem from this point of view.

Alternatively if I feel that the tree AND the ivy are part of an inevitable ecological process and I value the contribution both have to wildlife then I will let the ivy "do its own thing". Ivy is meant to grow up trees! and if you like "kill them"!

The lady in the audience at Jill Butler's talk in Reading in December stated that she HATED IVY (with no conditions attached) possibly because she thought (wrongly) that it was a lethal parasite. Such an absolute attitude is in the same category as someone who claims, for example, to hate modern art. I suggest they need to explore the matter further.

As an occasional Tree Warden (and apparently wildlife expert) I am asked to comment on ivy from people who see it as a problem. My response is to ideally see the tree and the circumstance in which it is placed and share this with the enquirer. Finally ivy IS manageable if you monitor and manage its behaviour before this gets too complicated/expensive.

Martin Woolner

PROFILE - LINDA MARTIN

Linda is the coordinator for Woodley and a committee member. She produced an excellent walk for Bearwood Recreation Ground. This remains our only walks leaflet (available on our website and Yahoo site and featured in previous issues of Tree Watch). We really do need to produce more! A laminated copy of this walks leaflet is available in the on-site café at the recreation ground, encouraging people to appreciate the trees there. I drove past the recreation ground daily when I was taking my sons to school, but didn't think to walk around it until I saw Linda's leaflet. It really exemplifies the importance of producing these local walks leaflets. Our (widely publicised) 5000th tree (MRN 5297) is also in Bearwood Recreation Ground. The photos below show Linda now and standing in front of 3 Concorde at the event organised for BA Staff after the last scheduled flight in October 2003.

My parents were interested in gardens and garden birds. We lived in a large crumbling Victorian house near Woking with about half an acre of garden. There was an unusual collection of trees and shrubs inherited from the previous owners including an arbutus, a winter flowering cherry and a sweet chestnut tree.

My first job was at Bourne and Hollingsworth in Oxford Street where I trained as a buyer. The Bourne family still ran the department store and there was a hostel for female staff in Gower Street next door to RADA (Google it, if you have the time!)

After four years living in central London I was ready to move out and looked for a flat with a friend who had left Bournes to join BOAC as an air stewardess. We ended up sharing a house in Woodley with its owner - another stewardess. I decided to apply to join the airline and - if they would take me - see the world for a couple of years. British Airways offered me a job. I stayed for over 30 years and never went back to retailing.



I volunteered to fly on Concorde. As cabin crew we also flew on other aircraft round Europe so in a week I might have one night in New York and one in Berlin, Barcelona or Aberdeen (to name but 3 possible destinations). On Concorde's scheduled flights many of the passengers flew with us regularly, giving it the feel of a London club. Everyone got a chance to look on the flight deck. After 9/11 we organised visits on the ground. Special flights were always great fun. We might fly round the Bay of Biscay for an hour and a half, visit Father Christmas in Lapland or fly to Cairo, Iceland, or wherever the tour companies thought of. We offered to take photos as soon as anyone was on board and served champagne as soon as we could get out of our seats after take off.

2003 saw Concorde retire from service. I was offered the chance to be on one of last flights, and found myself telling my manager that I had just been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and didn't know if I would be permitted to fly once I was on medication. He was kind and gave me one of the trips on the last day.... luckily the medics cleared me to fly just in time.

When I met Fee Young at Winnersh parish fete she was looking for someone to help her survey the trees in Winnersh. I was looking for something to do which would give me some exercise. Although I consider myself interested in nature I hadn't heard of Veteran trees or the WDVTA. I found Fee was interesting to talk to and she explained

why veteran trees are important. She needed someone "to hold the other end of her tape measure" so we arranged to meet up a few weeks later for a morning's surveying. I enjoyed it, so we carried on working together. We both took a lot of photographs of what we saw ... the trees and the wildlife associated with them.

I offered to become coordinator for Woodley, where I have lived for 40 years, knowing there are only a small number of places where there are likely to be veteran trees. It has been fascinating to look at old maps of the area and discover how much it has changed.

At the last AGM I joined the WDVTA committee and recently I have been working with Barbara Stagles exploring some of Woodley's quiet corners and the churchyard of St Catherine's at Bearwood.

Linda Martin

This month's A C R O N Y M / I N I T I A L I S M

TROBI - Tree Register of the British Isles

The Tree Register is a registered charity with a database containing details of notable trees throughout Britain and Ireland. According to their website, they have a unique database of over 200,000 of our most notable trees; with their volunteers discovering 2,000 new ones each year. So we have some way to go! An on-line database of over 4,000 trees is available to members. This lists their champions. There are Country & County for girth and height (both historic and current) as well as "Remarkable" and "Heritage" categories. There can be more than one champion in each category. Where we have identified our trees as being on the TROBI register, it is noted in the Comment section of the tree record.

WINDSOR FOREST

Linda Martin

Windsor Forest is one of only five forests recorded in Domesday Book, William the Conqueror's survey of England, which was completed in 1086.

The Norman kings were fond of hunting and appear to have introduced the European concept of royal forests. Areas "in foresta" weren't all woodland and were not necessarily owned by the King but he had the right to hunt over them. Over time they became subject to special rules and a separate court system was set up to enforce forest laws. There are records of courts for Windsor Forest being held in Wokingham, possibly in Overhangs, in Peach Street.



There are still Verderers Courts in the New Forest. (Still called—New because it was turned into a royal forest by William the Conqueror in 1079!) The verderers regulate the commoners exercising their rights to graze animals in the forest and they agree dates for the pannage season when pigs are allowed in to be fattened on acorns and beechmast in the woods. As acorns and mast are poisonous to horses and cattle when eaten in quantity, this practice serves a dual purpose.

The Charter of the Forest appeared in 1217, two years after the Magna Carta was signed. In many ways it was

similar: Henry III promised to keep to the boundaries and practices of his grandfather, Henry II, restoring the misdeeds of Richard and John.

The boundaries of Windsor Forest were called into question several times during the medieval period: 1227, 1300, 1327. Each time a perambulation was made to establish the boundaries and local witnesses swore to their accuracy. Sometimes parts of Surrey were included, sometimes they weren't.

John Norden, who surveyed and mapped the Forest for James I in 1607, succinctly described the larger Windsor Forest including part of Surrey:

"The Thames bounds it north, the Loddon west, Brodforde River (River Blackwater) and Gulddown (Hog's Back) south and the Way River east."



Trees in Windsor Great Park

Norden's map shows the forest divided into 16 walkes and lists the type of deer in each. The walkes were Egham, Cranbourne, New Lodge, Swinley, Windlesham, Chertsey, Brookewood, Purbrighte, Linchford at Ashe, Frimley, Easthampsted, Sandhurst, Bagshot, Beare wood, Warfelde and Binfield (Fines Bailiwick).

In 1580 Lord Burleigh ordered the planting of acorns in 13 acres of Cranborne Walk, thought to be the first plantation in England.

In the decades leading up to the Civil War there was unrest in many rural areas. The unpopular forest laws were reimposed, and privileges granted by Queen Elizabeth and James I lapsed. Forest keepers were blamed for stopping local residents from keeping deer away from their crops and exercising their rights in the forest.

In 1632 the Earl of Holland, constable of Windsor park and forest, confirmed the boundaries of Windsor Forest as those including Surrey. Surrey residents were outraged. There were reports of mass daylight poaching involving 80 to 100 men.



Ascot racecourse - Queen Anne found a good place for racing horses on Ascot heath. Still heathland in the middle and woodland beyond.

In 1640 the grand jury of Berkshire complained about the high numbers of deer which would soon leave neither food nor room for any other creature in the Forest; the high fees they were charged and the way forest laws were being applied. The following year a crowd gathered round New Lodge, threatening to pull down the park's boundary fence. They killed some red deer and an estimated 100 fallow deer.

During the Commonwealth deer number dropped and Charles II had to restock.

Queen Anne was a hunting enthusiast. In later years she suffered from

dropsy and became very stout. When she got too big to ride a horse she followed the hunt in a carriage she drove herself. Several rides were cut through the forest for her. Nine Mile Ride is thought to have been one of them. She founded Ascot racecourse after discovering an ideal place for horses to gallop at full stretch on heathland near Windsor. In 1711 she put up 100 guineas prize money for a race over 4 miles. Seven horses took part. They ran in three heats. On the first day of the Royal Ascot meeting the first race is the Queen Anne Stakes.

By the time a Commission was set up to look at the state of Windsor Forest in 1806, the deer population had fallen to about 300, with overgrazing by livestock owned by the local population. Most people who claimed any rights in the forest claimed them all, and extended the times when they could be applied. The commissioners also discovered that many of the established trees had been marked and recorded in about 1790. A square hole was cut in the bark and a sharp iron stamp with a crown, the letters WF and the tree's number was applied with a hammer. Trees were marked in Bearwood, Binfield, Swinley Walk, New and Old Windsor, Sunninghill, Cranborne Chase and parts of Bray and Clewer. The Rev Peter Ditchfield, writing in the 1920s, said he had seen fallen beech trees at Bearwood with marks of the royal crown grown to a large size. So far none of these trees have been recorded in our database.



Cattle grazing in Windsor Great Park

I can't substantiate any references to Windsor forest extending west to Hungerford, but during Henry III's reign almost all of the county of Berkshire came under forest laws, either as the Forest of Windsor or the Forest of Berkshire.

In 1221 the boundary of the Forest of Berkshire was given as starting in Reading where the Kennet joins the Thames; following the Kennet from the Thames at Reading to the place where it is joined by the Emborne (Auburn or Aleburn); following the Emborne (it forms the boundary between Berkshire and Hampshire) to Woodhay and Inkpen; then on a green lane to Chilton Foliat. From there along the boundary between Berkshire and Wiltshire to the river Lenta, along the Lenta to the Thames, and back to the Kennet at Reading along the boundary of Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

NB Linda has provided several references - contact me if you'd like them.

I had not heard about the method of "branding" trees described here. Obviously we are very interested in whether anyone has seen a tree with this distinctive mark on it. Please do let me know if you've seen one or know anything else about it. Apparently there were "books made ... of the particular description of every tree, as to dimensions and species" and the books were returned to the "Office of Woods". Local historians amongst our members may like to research this.

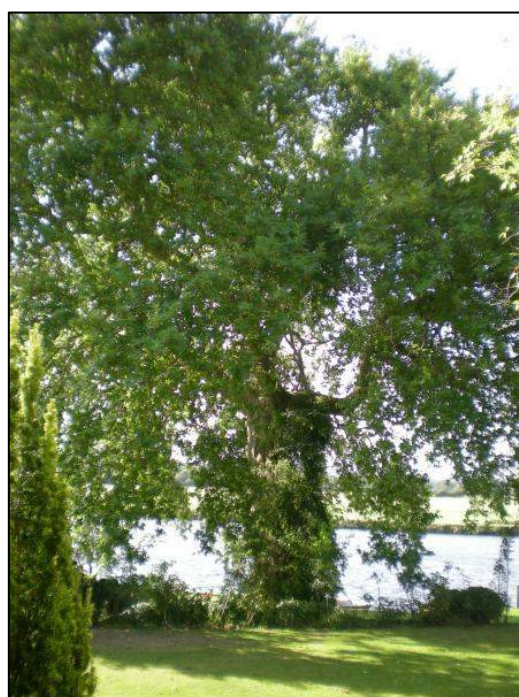
SPECIES IN FOCUS - ORIENTAL PLANE (*PLATANUS ORIENTALIS*)

10 miscellaneous facts about the Oriental Plane

1. Native from SE Europe to India.
2. Introduced into England about 1550, although not widely planted until mid 18th century.
3. It is monoecious - male and female catkins are separate, but on the same tree.
4. One parent of the more common London Plane (*Platanus* × *hispanica*) - the other being the American Plane (*Platanus occidentalis*)
5. Legend says Hippocrates taught medicine under an Oriental Plane in Kos. The Oriental Plane growing outside Addenbrooke's Hospital was grown from a seed of an ancient tree in Kos claimed to be the Hippocrates tree.
6. Oriental Plane veneer is sold as 'lacewood'
7. It is the state tree of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in Pakistan.
8. In 2011 the Corsham Court Oriental Plane was credited by TROBI as being the tree with the greatest known spread in the UK. It was planted by Lancelot Brown in 1760.
9. An Oriental Plane at Jesus College, Cambridge was planted in 1802 from seed brought back from the battlefield of Thermopylae. It had a girth of 5.2m in 1972.
10. We have 3 in our database: MRNS 76, 1919 and 1887 (Barkham above and page 5); 2 of which are TROBI County Champions for girth.



MRN 76 - Wokingham Town



MRN 1919 - Wargrave

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - *How can I easily plot several trees on a map?*

As you may know you can plot trees that are in our database by typing the tree numbers into the search box and if you want to check a grid reference you can do that too; but you can only have one blue marker on the screen and hence you can't plot more than one tree that isn't in the database yet. If you want to plot several points onto a map - use UK Grid Reference Finder (<http://gridreferencefinder.com>).

If you'd like more information about this facility, there's now a short document on the Yahoo site. Ask if you want me to send it to you.



Fee Young's TREE SCIENCE Column

I have free time (surely not!) Maybe you would like to learn a new subject, then may I recommend a visit to www.coursera.org or www.futurelearn.com or www.khanacademy.org.

The first two sites are known as MOOC - massive open online courses where you can study with your peers to specific deadlines. Both of these MOOC offer certification should you require evidence of your studies (good for your CV). At the Khan Academy you can study any subject at your own pace.

Loads of subjects are available but here are a few biological courses you may be interested in..... (not all are currently available)

Website	Course	Provider
www.coursera.org		
www.coursera.org/course/origins	Origins - formation of the universe, solar system, Earth and Life	University of Copenhagen
www.coursera.org/course/forestshumans	Forests and humans: from the Midwest to Madagascar	University of Wisconsin-Madison
www.coursera.org/course/emergenceoflife	Emergence of Life	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
www.coursera.org/course/human evolution	Human evolution: past and future	University of Wisconsin-Madison
www.coursera.org/course/global warming	Global warming: the science and modelling of climate change	The University of Chicago
www.coursera.org/course/plantk nows	What a plant knows (and other things you didn't know about plants)	Tel Aviv University
www.futurelearn.com		
www.futurelearn.com/courses/ecosystems	Introduction to ecosystems	The Open University
www.futurelearn.com/courses/climate-change-challenges-and-solutions	Climate change: challenges and solutions	University of Exeter
www.khanacademy.org		
www.khanacademy.org/science/biology/crash-course-bio-ecology	Crash course in Biology and ecology - modules Water - liquid awesome; Vascular plant = winning! Photosynthesis; Plants and the bees: plant reproduction; Conservation and restoration ecology.	Not applicable

VERY SAD NEWS

Oliver Rackham died suddenly on 12th February. He was 75. Google his name to read his obituaries. Don't miss the one by Adrian Cooper who published his last book - on the Ash tree; (it's in the Guardian - but there are two there). The quotes below illustrate his lasting memorial.

"As all conservationists know, it is easier to start a new project than to sustain an existing one."

Woodlands (2006) p 403

"Forests are one of the most prolific fields of pseudo-history - a consistent, logical, accepted corpus of statements, copied from writer to writer down the centuries. We still read, for example, that forests necessarily have to do with trees, that medieval England was very wooded; The story reads well and makes excellent sense, but it has no connection with the real world; it cannot be sustained from the records of any actual forest or wood." The Last Forest: The Story of Hatfield Forest (1989) preface.

*"Ancient woods are **not** the place to look for ancient trees, apart from coppice stools. Indeed the presence of ancient trees, unless they are boundary pollards, indicates that the wood is not ancient, but has grown up around free standing trees (infilled savanna)."*

Woodlands (2006) p 206

"New planting will not replicate veteran trees and the wildlife that goes with them. Veteran trees are rare, not because of a shortage of young trees, but because middle-aged trees have not been allowed to grow on. The future of veteran trees depends on not felling middle-aged trees when they start to decay."

Woodlands (2006) p 441

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES & READING

- ① www.treeregister.org - The Tree Register of the British Isles
- ① www.emma.cam.ac.uk/publications/OrientalPlane.pdf - The Oriental Plane at Emmanuel College
- ① wdvta.org.uk/pdf/orientalplane.pdf - The Montague House Oriental Plane
- ① wdvta.org.uk/pdf/bearwoodwalk-a.pdf & wdvta.org.uk/pdf/bearwoodwalk.pdf - Linda's excellent walks leaflets (*also on the Yahoo site*).

On our Yahoo site: in *Files > A - Other useful information* and in *Links > MAPS and on-line MAPPING*

- ① [UK Grid Reference Finder.pdf](#) - Brief notes on this very useful site
- ① gridreferencefinder.com - Very useful mapping tool

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

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/WDVTA/info>

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.