



On 27th May, we had **7,634** trees in our database and **11,089** photographs

Welcome to the latest issue of Tree Watch.

We had an excellent AGM last month. In a departure from our usual format, instead of presentations about our activities, we had two speakers from the Tree Council - Sara Lom and Jon Stokes. These talks were inspirational as Alison describes on page 4.

Earlier this month, Michael and Susan Rea led a very enjoyable walk in the Evendons area. The photos show the group under MRN 120 in Redlands Farm Park, standing by MRN 142 on the footpath known as Daffodil Lane and near the hybrid poplars on Sand Martins Golf Course.



There's a longer than usual list of forthcoming events on page 2, and I'm sure you'll find something of interest.

You will now find specific web links as hyperlinks within the articles, indicated in green. This avoids numerous page references. The main ones will still be listed on the last page to cater for printed copies.



The next issue of Tree Watch will be August 2019 and the copy deadline is 31st July. If you have any comments or responses to anything in this issue or contributions for future issues please send them to: Elaine Butler - datamanager@wdvta.org.uk

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Events - June-August 2019

WDVTA events

Saturday 15th June - 13:00-16:30 - Winnersh Summer Fete. WDVTA stand and official naming of two large oaks (MRNS 5297 & 5576) - the first in our campaign to name significant trees within the Borough. Bearwood Recreation Ground. Free entrance and free parking.

Non-WDVTA events - including an exciting programme from RTWN. More details on their [website](#). Where necessary to book email rtwn2011@gmail.com

- ❖ **Saturday 1st June - 10:30 - Blundell's Copse Tree Walk** - meet at Bramble Crescent entrance. Free. No need to book.
- ❖ **14th-24th June - 10:00-18:00 - 'The Art of Trees'**, an exhibition of a nationally renowned group of artists known as 'The Arborealists' along with local artists. The Turbine House, Blakes Lock, Gas Works Road, Reading RG1 3DS. Free. No need to book.
- ❖ **Tuesday 18th June - 14:00 - Guided tree walk at Forbury Gardens**, Reading, led by Dr Carolyn Jenkins, Reading's Parks Development Manager. Free. Limited numbers book with RTWN.
- ❖ **Wednesday 19th June - 14:30 - 'An Artist Talks'**, Tim Craven speaks about how he paints trees - The Turbine House, Blakes Lock, Reading. Free. Limited numbers book with RTWN
- ❖ **Saturday 22nd June - 12:00 - "Rural Reading"** book launch and nature walk to Kennet Mouth. Meet at north end of Caversham pedestrian bridge. Free. No need to book.
- ❖ **Wednesday 23rd June 14:30 - Tree Poetry** - The Turbine House, Blakes Lock, Reading. Free. Limited numbers book with RTWN.
- ❖ **Thursday 4th July 18:00-19:00 - RTWN AGM** - Reading Canoe Club (next to Caversham Court Gardens). **19:15 guided tree walk through Caversham Court Gardens.** Free. No need to book.
- ❖ **Friday 5th July - 14:00 - Guided tree walk in Coley Meadows**, Reading. Free. Limited numbers book with RTWN
- ❖ **Sunday 7th July - 14:00 - Old Tilehurst Tree Trail** at Arthur Newbery Park, Reading. Free. Limited numbers book with RTWN
- ❖ **Wednesday 31st July - 10:00 - Rewilding ancient and modern woodlands at Clayfield Copse.** Meet at Clayfield Copse car park, Caversham Park Road (SU 72576 76774). Free. No need to book. [One of the 'Wild about Reading' events.]

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

THE ART OF TREES

RTWN

As listed above (and on the events page of our website) Reading Tree Wardens have put together an exciting programme for next month. Here is a more detailed description.

The Arborealists and Guests: "The Art of Trees" 14th - 23rd June, daily, 10:00-18:00 at The Turbine House Gallery, Gas Works Road (just off The Prudential building). The nearest car park is Queen's Road. The 17 bus stops right by the Prudential building. It's a ten-minute walk from Reading station.

We thank Reading Museum for the use of this beautiful gallery in this listed building on Kennetside. We are privileged to bring to Reading 'The Arborealists', whose inaugural exhibition at the Royal Academy, Bristol in 2014 received national critical acclaim. The 'Telegraph' described it as "spellbinding". Twenty completely different works by professionals whose subject is the tree will be shown for your pleasure and delight. The "guests" are Reading artists kindly invited to participate too. You might easily fall in love with one of their works, and a lot of them are affordable! We've also organised three outstanding events to accompany the show during the 11 days:

- 1) An opportunity for an expert guided tree walk at The Forbury Gardens by Carolyn Jenkins, Head of Parks, Reading Borough Council. Tuesday 18 June. Start at The Turbine House at 14:00. Places are free but need to be booked at rtwn2011@gmail.com.
- 2) "An Artist Talks": A rare chance to hear Tim Craven, painter, leader of 'The Arborealists' and much esteemed former Curator at Southampton City Gallery, talk about his own work and that of 'The Arborealists'. 14:30 start. Places are free but need to be booked at rtwn2011@gmail.com.
- 3) "The Poetry of Trees": Sally Mortimore, Managing Publisher of Reading's own Two Rivers Press introduces Reading poets as they present their tree poems. 14:30 start. Those of you who were on the Town to Boundary walk last September will remember what a powerful experience that was. Places are free but need to be booked at rtwn2011@gmail.com.

NEW COMMITTEE

At the AGM the existing officials and committee members were re-elected, along with a very welcomed new committee member - Barry Anderson, the new coordinator for Charvil.

Officials:

Chairman: Alison Griffin
 Secretary: Kerry Clissold
 Treasurer: Derek Oxbrough

Committee members:

Barry Anderson, Elaine Butler, Cathy Harris, Sarah Hanson, Martin Haslam, Stephen Loyd, Linda Martin, Stephanie McKay, Steve Radford, Michael Rea, Coralie Ramsey, Maggie Sanderson, Jane Sellwood, Barbara Stagles and Liz Wild.

TREE WATCHING FROM MY CHAIR

Alison Griffin

A very unusual spring this year and the tree bud burst and blossom has been affected as I am sure you will have noticed. I saw oak tree buds that had burst very early, in late March, and yet through April when it was cold again, the oak leaves came out very



slowly with some trees almost bare whilst others were quite green. I also saw a town centre hawthorn tree in blossom at the end of March. It may be 'mayflower' and in good years the blossom is out in April, but the end of March! Again, with the cold April, the hedgerows didn't follow the town tree and it took until the start of May to enjoy the hawthorn blossoming hedgerows in their name-appropriate month.



At the AGM Jon Stokes called ash trees the 'pompom tree' as one effect of dieback is that the foliage is at the top and ends, and sparse along the branches. I am very aware of ash trees this May, their bud-burst is so late that the bare branches have been standing out against neighbouring green trees. Many I've seen also seem to just have burst buds at the end of the branches and I keep thinking of Jon Stokes 'pompom'. Do report any ash trees that have succumbed to ash-die back. I hope some of you took up the request last summer to record photographs of ash tree. If you did, do take a photograph this summer to compare the foliage cover. Please send your photos to Elaine.

I owe Gordon Veitch an apology. He responded to the article on 'The Last Tree Standing' in the last Tree Watch to remind me that a hornbeam had been planted last December in Finchampstead churchyard to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The tree has been recorded in our commemorative database (tree W092). I am sorry this was omitted from the last Tree Watch (photo left).

AGM meeting

At the end of April we held our AGM and were very pleased that the CEO from The Tree Council, Sara Lom, and Jon Stokes, the Tree Council Director of Trees, Science and Research, joined us. Both gave fascinating talk. Sara gave an overview of Tree Council activities and their new Advisory Group and Jon was as engaging and inspirational as always talking about countering threats to street and hedge trees.

The photo shows our Lead Tree Wardens, Stephen Loyd and Stephanie McKay, showing Sara Lom (left) and Jon Stokes (right) a board displaying some of our tree warden activities - the hedge project and actions to save Fox Hill Woods.



Many ideas were raised both within Sara and Jon's talks and in discussions with them during the refreshment break. They covered issues such as the need for areas to have an

effective local tree strategy (which Reading and Bracknell Forest have, but Wokingham does not); the planting of appropriate species of new street trees and the vital requirement for good aftercare. Tree walks for good health and wellbeing were discussed and doctors in the Epping Forest area have been arranging these with noticeable beneficial outcomes.

Clare Bowen, the Tree Council Director of Programmes, Partnerships and Communications, also came and she recorded short video clips with several of our tree wardens, although they were rather disturbed by the church bell-ringing practice!

Jon remarked on the beautiful tree lined roads in Wokingham, the Green Routes, and how these are becoming increasingly rare in the UK as a whole. They are a reminder to us all to protect what we are lucky enough to have in our Borough.

At the recent May committee meeting we discussed all the ideas raised and have agreed that two ideas in particular will be progressed. The first is to work with Wokingham Borough Council to develop a Tree Strategy for the Borough. The second is to use the *i-Tree* tool which models the quantitative value of trees. It will, for example, estimate the value of carbon dioxide taken up by the trees across the borough. We have already made good progress getting both of these topics launched and they will feature in our Forum meetings and in future Tree Watch newsletters.

The topic of 5G and its impact on trees was raised during questions and we hope that national tree bodies, such as The Tree Council and The Woodland Trust, will produce statements summarising the technology and what impacts it may or may not have on trees. Derek Oxbrough has drafted a summary which we discussed in the committee meeting. If you want to find out more there are a couple of videos you could watch. One is by *Nicholas Martin* WDVTA member and Parish Councillor for Wokingham Without and the other is from the *BBC Click* programme.

Displays at the AGM meeting

As those of you who were at the AGM will know, we created displays for everyone to look at. These covered Tree Warden activities of interest to The Tree Council visitors, as well as projects and events in 2018.

One display had the following core questions:

Going Forward Should we do this?

- Complete our tree survey?
- Be active Tree Wardens?
- Respond to enquiries to the website?
- Participate in Tree Council projects?
- Be active in social media?
- Publicise ourselves at local events?
- Photograph trees where we need an image?
- Plan how we can manage WDVTA for the next ten years?

If you think we should do any, most or all of these, then could you help with just one of them? See the other sheets around these questions and sign up on the sheet on the table and we will get in touch.

What WDVTA achieves is the result of what we as all its members do.

Thank You

This list of activities has now been extended with *i-Tree* and the Tree Strategy initiatives. We already limit and prioritise what we do, so to take on more inevitably means we will do fewer of the topics in this list. We really do need to involve more members in our activities.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO OFFER ANY HELP, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH AND WE CAN DISCUSS THE TOPICS THAT INTEREST YOU. THERE IS PLENTY OF VARIETY IN THE LIST!

Trees in the Media

Jon Stokes was on the radio just a few days after he was with us. He was a guest on the 5th May edition of the BBC Radio 4 Sunday morning news magazine as a guest of Paddy O'Connell. He was speaking about the recommendation by the UK Government's Committee on Climate Change that 3 billion trees should be planted in the UK to reduce the net effect of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions.

The number of new books about trees or linked to trees is very noticeable. As Elaine mentioned in the last Tree Watch, John Humphrys now talks and writes about trees. He has recommended the new book 'The Overstory' by Richard Powers, that won the Pulitzer prize this year. I expect across all of us we must read quite a few of these new 'tree' books each year. If you have read one recently, or the next time you read one, could you write a brief review of it for a future Tree Watch? I think such articles would be of great interest to many of us. Patricia Green has initiated this with her review on page 9.

The netting of trees this Spring to prevent birds nesting in areas where tree work is planned has been very widely reported and condemned. One article I found on The Tree Council website extended the issue into the *impact of netting on hedgerows* and that led me to another article on their website about research on the *benefits of hedgerows* reported by the University of Reading. Both are well worth reading.

[It's a shame that the Centre for Agri-Environmental Research at the University of Reading does not make its report freely available. You can read the abstract, but have to subscribe to the journal or pay for the full article. - Ed]

As well as Jon's report of doctors in Epping Forest recommending walks in their forest for health benefits, the National Trust have launched '*Forest Bathing*' with '*Mindfulness*' benefits. Do join us on our occasional WDVTA tree walks. They are always very enjoyable and you find areas of the Borough you haven't visited before and you can now add physical and mental health benefits too.

The 'Waitrose Paper' had a brief article in March which alerted me to a Forest England initiative called '*The Wonder of Trees*' to celebrate their centenary. They would like people to add letters, poems, stories or memories that celebrate trees in their life to their website. Carol Ann Duffy wrote a poem to launch

the contributions which I enjoyed reading. It is peaceful and thought provoking. I am sure many of you would have material you could add to this initiative, so go on, have a go!

Tree identification in Winter

A recent email from TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) had a lovely poster of tree buds in winter as an aid to identifying trees. The poster has been created by the naturalist photographer Phil Barnett. He has also produced one on common lichens found on trees. I hope we will be able to put copies of these onto our website, or Google file repository, for everyone to access them and they will make splendid posters for our display boards too. Work in progress!

Reporting new tree features



One aspect of surveying trees that always surprises me is how often I miss something. I had a case of this a couple of weeks ago at Wellingtonia Avenue. Having taken photographs of all the trees along the avenue a few years ago, I am aware of the ones with distinguishing features (especially MRN 6330 which has a major split high up the trunk) as they are very helpful for reconciling photographs of individual trees on the map. Walking in Simons Wood recently with Gordon Veitch and Chris Hannington, we spotted one of the trees (MRN 2480) had lost its top many years ago, and on looking more closely saw a major vertical scar probably from a lightning strike (photo left). At 20 to 30 feet long, the scar is hardly invisible, but you do have to be on the north side of the tree and not on the road. It is a very distinguishing feature and this new photograph has been added to our database.

When you do spot new features on a recorded tree, do take photographs and send the details to Elaine.

What do you think of this?

As you know I do a lot of my tree gazing from the car and whilst stuck in traffic. Coming out of town on the Finchampstead Road earlier this year I noticed this new artistic contribution. Now, be honest, was your reaction a smile as you enjoyed the whimsy or a frown at something inappropriate? At pushchair height, I hope it has attracted some young children to notice the tree and maybe the person who did the work tells stories to a child about whoever lives behind the red door. However, as you can see in the earlier photograph (below), the bark was missing from a larger area, showing that the tree is repairing the damage in its own way and at its own speed. Should we publicise this artistic effort? I think not. Filler has been used to create the steps along the scar line where the tree is trying to heal the wound. The paint may not be toxic, but it will not be helping the tree heal the wound. All the street oak trees are very stressed already and this



will be adding to that stress and compromising the tree's healing process. So whimsical, yes; helping the

tree, no; something we should publicise and encourage - definitely not. It's MRN 569 (the two photos above left were taken in 2007).

New Tree Disease and Observatree

A new tree virus has been reported *European Mountain Ash Ringspot*. It is caused by a virus and infects mountain ash, whitebeam and wild service trees, causing mottling and rings on the leaves. As it's relatively new, the long term effects are not known. Details can be found on the [Observatree website](#) which can also be used to report cases of all the important tree pests and diseases. If you do find any trees that have the key pests and diseases, please report them through this national site, but if they are in the Borough and especially if they are trees on our database, do let us know too.

WDVTA PHOTO LIBRARY

Malcolm Inglis



Since its formation in 2007, WDVTA members and friends have been taking photographs of trees, green spaces, events and so on in the course of our activities. These photos are not just a record of our work but many are interesting in their own right and some are quite artistic!

To make these images more widely available, WDVTA has set up a library of digital images for the use of members. These relate to the work of our organisation and, as you might expect, include large numbers of trees as well as pictures of WDVTA events, meetings, visits and so on.

Most of the photos have been taken by our members.

They are being stored on the WDVTA's Google Drive account from which they may be downloaded for members' use in leaflets, presentations or sharing amongst friends.

Most images are high resolution and suitable for printing. The majority are in JPG format but some are PNG files. The library also contains files such as PowerPoint presentations from AGMs or other events, and some are PDF files designed for display boards at WDVTA events. These files are available to all members, but we ask you to get permission from a Committee member if you want to download or copy them. The images have been set up on a Google Drive resource which may be found at

<https://tinyurl.com/WDVTA-shared-files>

At the moment, this location comprises a number of folders namely,

1. Tree pictures
2. Tree warden projects
3. Presentations and displays
4. Local history
5. Events
6. Miscellaneous: images, maps, etc.
7. Identification guides



and many of these folders are subdivided into lower level folders - for example, in the case of Wokingham tree pictures they are sorted by parish.

Although the initial set of pictures was set up by members of the Committee, **all WDVTA members are invited to contribute** (see below). Digital images usually contain information on the date and time the picture was taken. This can easily be retrieved from the image itself on Windows or MacOS computers - for further information contact the [Webmaster](#) or [Membership Secretary](#). However, we are also trying to make sure that date information is added to the Google Drive folder or picture description so you don't

have to extract it yourself.

Contributions

Contributions from members or others are actively welcomed. If you have digital photos which may be of interest, please let us know by contacting the **Chairman** or any other committee member.

To send in photos a member must obtain access rights from the **Webmaster** or **Membership Secretary**, who will help you send in the pictures.

If you are using a digital camera to contribute it's well worth while checking that your camera's date and time has been set correctly so your pictures contain an accurate record of when they were taken. This shouldn't be a problem if you are using a phone as a phone's date is set automatically.



Terms & conditions

Any member can download the Google Drive images, most of which are copyright WDVTA. The images may not be sold or distributed to any commercial organisation without the permission of the WDVTA.

A limited number of photos in the library are copyrighted by an individual or organisation other than the WDVTA. Where this is the case, the copyright is noted in the photo description and permission must be obtained if you want the pictures for anything other than personal use.



CHARVIL'S COMMEMORATIVE TREES

Sarah Swatridge

Silver Jubilee Tree

A Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) was planted in Wenlock Edge in 1977 to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. [W102 in our *Commemorative and Special Trees Inventory*]. It was planted on the green opposite number 22 by Lord Astor - a relative of the Astor family from Cliveden. Margaret Gimblett who served on the Charvil Parish Council from 1972 to 1983 was present alongside resident Marlene Rogers who provided refreshments on the day. The tree is still visible today (*photo right*) with a lovely dome shape and is home to nesting magpies.

Several other trees were planted by the parish council in Charvil around this time, including the trees on the green area near Milestone Crescent, sycamores in Pennine Way and a sycamore and a lime on the green area at the far end of Wenlock Edge.



Plant a Tree in 73

Plant a Tree in 73 was a Government sponsored national campaign in the UK aimed at encouraging tree planting, as so many trees had been lost from Dutch Elm disease. Local resident Suzanne Newman from Park Lane remembers planting trees in Charvil House Road. Margaret Gimblett said three Field Maples (*Acer campestre*) were planted. Sadly, none of these have survived, but a neighbour of Ms Newman, who still lives in Park Lane, planted a birch in his front garden and this remains.

VE Day Commemorative tree

In June 1995 an oak sapling was planted in the grounds of St Patrick's Church to commemorate 50 years since the end of World War II in Europe in 1945. Local War Veterans were asked to place a spade of soil over its roots as part of the Charvil VE Day celebrations which included a 'street party' in St Patrick's. Unfortunately this tree has since been removed to make way for building work.

Golden Jubilee tree

A Rowan (Mountain Ash) was planted in 2002 to replace the VE Day Commemorative oak at St Patrick's Church. The Queen's Golden Jubilee was held in 2002 marking the 50th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne. Celebrations took place in the UK on 3rd June 2002. The Rowan remains and has been surveyed [W013; photo left] but St Patrick's Church and the land it sits on has been sold and houses are due to be built later this year.

The Wenlock Edge Community Vegetable Garden Apple Tree - this Triple Apple tree (produces three different types of apple from the same rootstock) was planted on 10th June 2011 by the Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP - the then



Home Secretary. Ironically one of the garden's stipulations is that no trees are to be planted in the community vegetable garden!

VJ Day commemorative tree

A tree was planted in August 1995 to commemorate 50 years since the end of World War II in Japan in August 1945. A Charvil

resident from Cheviot Drive, who was also a Burma Veteran, planted the tree alongside Margaret Gimblett from the parish council. Sadly neither the tree nor the plaque remain.

If you are aware of any other interesting trees in Charvil or stories relating to them please email Sarah (charviltrees@wdvta.org.uk) or contact her via Charvil parish council.

FAVOURITE BOOKS:

Patricia Green

'Around the World in 80 Trees' by Jonathan Dori

Illustrations by Lucille Clerc; ISBN 978-1-78627-161-7 published 2018 by Laurence King Publishing Ltd
The author is a scientist who has been a trustee of Kew Gardens, on the board of the Woodland Trust and worked with WWF, etc. He is fascinated by the interaction between man and plants. The book discusses trees of many countries, describing them as sentient objects struggling for the survival of the fittest and (generally) providing much for mankind. Each page of text about an individual tree species faces a page of coloured illustration, showing details such as the fruit of the whistling thorn and leaves of the endemic traveller's tree of Madagascar. The workings of the physics and chemistry of trees, such as why no tree can ever grow taller than 394 feet, are explained. *Lignum vitae* has the heaviest wood and this was used for propeller shafts in the 1940s and in the bearings of the first nuclear submarine. The lightest wood, from balsa trees, was used to build the de Havilland mosquito aircraft. The quality of different woods for musical instruments is well documented, as is the pressure caused by over-extraction of trees with perfect acoustic qualities. A fascinating section on alder concentrates on the development of the city state of

Venice and its controlled destruction of trees for buildings and industries. Realising that alder wood retains its strength as long as it stays wet, long piles of alder were driven vertically into the mud and subsoil at nine per square yard, to form the basis for buildings and bridges. The Rialto Bridge and many bell towers were built with these foundations.

Recognition of benefits from trees starts with early man's use of willow to soothe fever (450 species of willow in Europe). We know that many trees provide food and shelter and have defences against predation, and I was delighted to discover that the primeval looking monkey puzzle trees developed their sharp leaves as a defence against dinosaurs. Another ancient survivor, the *Wollemi* pine, turns out to have unique DNA, unlike all other known trees, making it very vulnerable to a specific risk. Trees which set seed organise dispersal to suit their habitat and growth, with the sandbox tree going to the extreme of shooting out its seed at 150 mph so that seedlings can develop away from the parent.

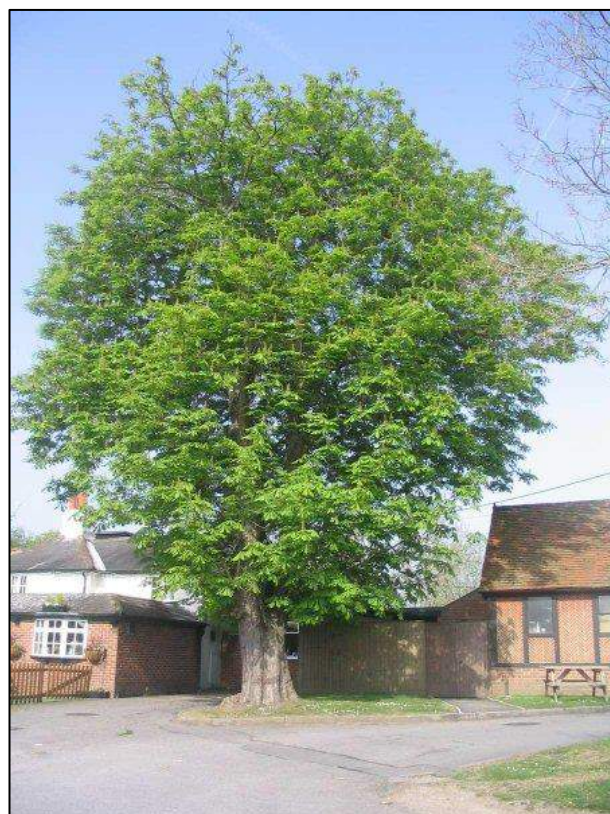
The use of trees for food and shade which enabled people to live in otherwise inhospitable places, is illustrated by the date palm in deserts and the edible grubs of the moths on oplane trees of South Africa. The ecology of the habitats of certain trees has helped to develop modern technologies. The red mangrove of Florida uses a desalination system based on solar power, that engineers have copied for commercial applications. The over-exploitation of trees producing latex, or oils, is discussed with an emphasis on the loss of native forests and the development of single-crop plantations. Warnings about unintended consequences of planting the wrong tree in the wrong place are illustrated with the case of the tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), which was imported from China and grown extensively in the US, but is now regarded there as an indestructible pest.

The book is written with humour and irony, and shows a clear enjoyment of trees everywhere. I regret that I have to return my book to the library, and it is certainly one that I would buy for myself.

SADLY DEPARTED - NINE TREES LOST

Three trees were felled in Wokingham Town (MRNs 1095, 2647 & 2648). The remaining five were in Arborfield. Four were felled to make way for the new Arborfield Cross Relief Road (MRNs 4188, 4189, 4193 & 4194). The lovely horse chestnut shown below (MRN 772) stood proudly outside the Bramshill Public House, but that closed and the land is scheduled for re-development. When surveyed in 2007, it had a girth of 3.3m. It was probably 80-90 years old and looked very healthy. What a shame.

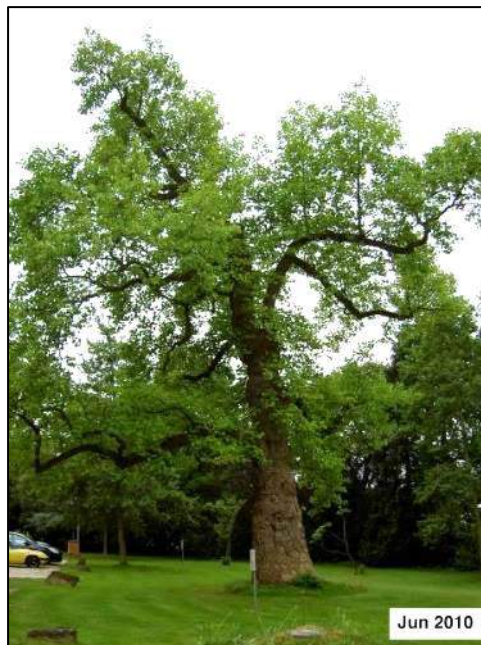
The other lost tree was also in Arborfield (MRN 5463). This veteran hedge tree fell across the Eversley Road this month.



SPECIES IN FOCUS - TULIP TREE (*LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA*)

12 miscellaneous facts about the Tulip Tree

1. A member of the magnolia family, the tulip tree is the largest American hardwood.
2. Fork Ridge Tulip Tree is 58.5m tall. It's the tallest tulip tree on record and the tallest native angiosperm tree known in North America.
3. Native to eastern North America, it was widespread across America, Asia and Europe 60 million years ago, but did not survive glaciation in Europe.
4. Introduced to Britain around 1650, it was recorded being grown by Bishop Compton at Fulham Palace in 1688.
5. The largest tulip tree recorded in Britain has a girth of 9.6m (measured in 2018; TROBI #99344). It's in a garden in Esher, Surrey and is thought to be from an original introduction to Europe.
6. Nearer to Wokingham, in the garden of the Taplow House Hotel in Maidenhead, is a tree described as "*Perhaps the best Tulip Tree in England for its combination of height, girth and beauty.*" It had a girth of 7.06m at 1.5m in 2009 (TROBI #99448).
7. Its bluntly truncated leaves are very distinctive, making identification easy. They turn yellow in autumn.
8. The Latinised name can be translated as "*lily tree bearing tulips*". The flowers are a yellowy-green colour, often concealed by the large leaves, but they don't develop until the trees are 10-15 years old.
9. Alternative names in the US include Canary whitewood, white poplar or popple, tulip poplar, yellow poplar, white wood and saddle-leaf tree. The wood is simply called "poplar", although it's not closely related to the true poplars.
10. The straight trunk is very suitably for dugout canoes and its pale-greenish heartwood is favoured by architects for interior finishes. The wood is strong, but not heavy and, because it imparts no odour, it is sometimes used to line wells and to make food packaging. Its pulp makes high-quality book paper.
11. We have 5 in our veteran tree database, including the Berkshire champion for girth (4.7m in 2009) in Masefield Gardens, Crowthorne, (MRN 2902; TROBI # 206529). Only one (MRN 27, photo above) is publicly accessible. As its number implies, it was one of the first trees to be recorded. It's opposite Cantley Hotel in Wokingham Town and in 2006 it had a girth of 4.35m (at 1.5m). The other tree shown here is MRN 3730 with a girth of 2.88m (at 1.5m) in 2009. It's in the back garden of a house in Shinfield.
12. A closely related species, the Chinese tulip tree (*Liriodendron chinense*) was introduced from Asia by the Ernest Wilson in 1901; (leaf shown right). The two species hybridise readily.



WHERE IS IT?

Do you know where this tree is?

Answer in the next issue.



It's about 35 miles from Wokingham.

From the last issue:

This is MRN 8332, the large London Plane in Wargrave, that Derek Oxbrough noticed whilst canoeing on the Hennerton Backwater. Its estimated age is 330yrs, making it one of earliest London Planes in UK. (The species was introduced in 1680).



Veteran Tree Survey snapshot

CHANGES SINCE FEBRUARY

140

photos added

44

new trees

29

records amended

11

*trees re-measured
(after 10 years)*

9

*tree lost
(9 felled + 1 fallen)*

6

parishes submitted data

DID YOU KNOW?... Everywhere has a 3 word address.

We all use grid references, but there's a new system called "what3words" which allocates 3 words to every 3m square across the whole globe. At that level several references apply to one house, so you can choose which you like best!

The 'Henry VIII oak' in Shinfield (MRN 432) is

"jokes.models.washed"

and the 'Montague Plane' in Wokingham (MRN 76) is

"gosh.shirts.sector"

[If you check these out, it's best to turn on the satellite view.]
Currently you can't input a grid ref or lat/long. You can zoom around the map and search by street address, place name or of course the 3 word address.

Some countries are using this system as we use post codes.

.... *And to make you smile:*

This photo was posted on Stefan Sundströms Officiella's Facebook page and then shared by Wirrel Tree Wardens.

If you come across any amusing tree-related scenes, please take a photo and send it to me.



RECOMMENDED WEBSITES & READING

<https://friendsoffoxhill.org> - Friends of Fox Hill Woods website
<https://tinyurl.com/WDVTA-shared-files> - WDVTA photo library
www.observatree.org.uk - An early warning system for tree health
www.treeregister.org - TROBI website
www.itreetools.org - Quantifies the benefits and values of trees
www.monumentaltrees.com/en/ - Monumental trees in UK

Some sources used in this issue: all web pages accessed 26-05-2019 (unless stated otherwise)

p3-7-Tree Watching: <https://www.itreetools.org/> ; www.treecouncil.org.uk/Press-News/Its-not-just-about-netting-hedges-mismanagement-is-making-our-hedges-slowly-disappear-completely ; www.treecouncil.org.uk/Press-News/Thriving-hedgerows-are-farmers-friend-new-research-shows ; www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/a-beginners-guide-to-forest-bathing ; www.observatree.org.uk/ www.forestryengland.uk/100/carol-ann-duffy - poem ; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRG5n_7qx1A (accessed 31-05-2019); <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0004v9t>
p11-Species in Focus: Mitchell, Alan (1974) 'A Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe' ISBN 0 00 212035 6
<http://www.treeregister.org/> (database accessed May 2013)
photo credits: flower photo: P.gibellini https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liriodendron#/media/File:Liriodendron_tulipifera_flower.jpg ; leaf photo - Jan Hengstmengel; Chinese leaf photo: photo El Grafo https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liriodendron_chinense#/media/File:Liriodendron_chinense_01.jpg
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liriodendron> ; <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/3294280/Branch-lines-the-tulip-tree.html> ; <http://www.tree-guide.com/tulip-tree> ; <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/10338/Liriodendron-tulipifera/Details> ; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liriodendron_chinense
<https://www.monumentaltrees.com/en/trees/tuliptree/records/> ; https://www.monumentaltrees.com/en/gbr/england/surrey/7517_uniteesherplace/p12-Did_you_know? : <https://map.what3words.com/>

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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: You can download a pdf version of our 10th anniversary report from our website - but you can also access an extended version of it, with links to the trees mentioned:

wdvta.org.uk/report10.php

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

The inventory of commemorative and special trees can also be accessed via our website:

wdvta.org.uk/commem.php

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