



On 20th August, we had **8,567** trees in our database and **13,644** photographs

Welcome to the latest issue of Tree Watch.

How do you like the recent hot weather? The very hot weather we had in July reminded us, if we needed it, how important mature trees are for their shade value; from school children sitting under trees in their playground to the residents of Cairo bemoaning the fact that a large number of old trees have been cut down to make way for urban development. See page 2 for advice on how to help trees survive lack of water and heat stress.

The annual Earley Green Fair returned this year, after a two-year absence because of Covid. As usual WDVTA had a stall there, arranged and manned by Jane Sellwood (*right*). There was considerable interest in the stall, with many visitors expressing concern over tree issues. Such displays at parish/town events are a great way to engage with members and non-members; but unfortunately, we have very few offers of help for such events. If you know of an event that would benefit from our presence or if you'd be willing to help out at one, please let us know. Any help would be greatly appreciated.



Do look at the recommendations on page **12**. They are all news items that could have featured in detail in the main body of this issue.

The next issue of Tree Watch will be November 2022 and the copy deadline is 31st October. If you have any comments or responses to anything in this issue or contributions for future issues, please send them to: **Elaine Butler - TreeWatch @ wdvta.org.uk**

Don't forget words in dark green are links to further details (obviously not applicable when printed).

Main items in this issue:- (*click on title*)

p2 Tree Watching from my chair
P5 Project Hairstreak
P5 WBC Garden Forest Scheme
P6 Platinum Jubilee Trees
P7 Trees in Literature

P7 Did You Know? Sculptures
P8 FAQ - Bundled trees
P9 Species in Focus - Copper Beech
P10 Then and Now - The Duck and the World
P11 Silly Season; Pub names
P12 Recommended news items

Events - Sept-Nov 2022

❖ Some events are in the planning stage. Members will be notified if these are finalised.

Non-WDVTA events:

- ❖ Sundays: 11 Sept; 16 Oct; 20 Nov: 10:00-13:00 - Friends of Fox Hill Wood - Conservation Working Parties. See [website](#) for details and map.
- ❖ The Field Studies Council are offering a free on-line [moth identification course](#) aimed at absolute beginners, focusing on the most distinctive and commonly seen moths.

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

TREE WATCHING FROM MY CHAIR

Alison Griffin

After the storms of the late winter the very dry weather and heat waves are continuing to stress all our trees. Trees seem to be dropping desiccated leaves over the last couple of months, a sign that the tree has not enough water and/or nutrients to support the canopy spread it developed in the spring. I trust you have been able to water any new saplings you have planted over the last two or three winters to ensure they are coping with this summer's heat and drought.



Barbara recently received advice from [Ashridge Nurseries](#) about the watering of newly planted trees. With the current weather I am sure many of you will welcome this reminder:

- Trees in pots need water everyday either early in the morning or after sunset and in extreme heat, water twice a day. Place a tray below the pot to retain water.
- New trees that are 1 - 3 years old need 15 gallons of water at least twice a week throughout a heatwave. Water them slowly close to the base of the tree so the water does not run away from the root area. Try not to let the soil completely dry out or allow it to remain soggy as this variation in water supply will stress the tree.
- Established trees need a monthly soak between April and October or more often if they appear stressed by dropping leaves.
- Adding a thick layer of mulch around the base of the tree will help keep the soil from drying out quickly and will also help to regulate the soil temperature.

As well as seeing early desiccated leaf fall as a sign of stressed trees, the signs of tree diseases are more common too. The horse chestnut leaf miner damage seems to have been more extensive earlier this year. I saw trees very badly affected as early as June. More local ash trees have much reduced canopies too. I recall Jon Stokes describing affected trees as 'lollipop trees' with clusters of normal growth at the ends of branches rather than an even canopy. Some ash trees this year are more lollipop sticks than lollipops.

Sadly departed



Finchampstead Road in Wokingham lost another of its large English oak trees in June when MRN [2061](#) was felled for safety concerns. It had unexpectedly lost a significant branch in the autumn of 2018 as you can see in this photograph. The local Barkham Hookers put one of their Platinum Jubilee decorations over the tree stump, but it was removed before we were able to photograph it for our records. This tree had a TPO [1299/2009 (T3)] and so a replacement should be planted.



Last entries into the Survey

In Tree Watch in August last year, I wrote about the visits I made to Yeldall Manor in Wargrave to photograph trees that we had recorded there. For various reasons I didn't get the photographs and survey details to Elaine last year, but have now completed that task and nearly a hundred of the new photographs in the final survey database update are from the Manor grounds. As I said last year, if you ever have the chance to visit the manor, do take our tree map with you and enjoy the Wellingtonia avenue and the variety of trees around the manor house itself. *[They had an Open Day last month, and should have one next summer - Ed]*

I thought the Yeldall work would be my last entries into the survey but a consequence of Storm Eunice brought a change of plan. In Tree Watch in May this year, one of the photographs of trees felled by the



spring storms was along Bearwood Road in Barkham. It was a large beech tree and fell towards the road. It has not been cleared away and the top remains very close to the

edge of the road. In June I noticed that there were beech leaves on one of the upper branches which must have become embedded in the ground as the tree fell. When I investigated on foot, the tree has several branches all up the trunk that have produced leaves. Wonderful to see the tree surviving and I hope it is not 'cleared away' and can regenerate itself, although maybe not so close to the road! In discussions with Derek Oxbrough, we realised that the fallen tree had not been recorded as it was deep in dense rhododendron bushes and its girth wasn't obvious; so this new tree will be one of the last trees added to our database

(MRN [9329](#)). [In May it was incorrectly identified as MRN [7640](#); but that is still standing. The storm damage report has been [amended](#). - Ed]



Wokingham Borough Tree Strategy

A few committee members have been involved with me this year in discussions with council officers to give input into the Borough's Tree Strategy. The draft strategy should be sent out for consultation soon and we have already been asked if some of our photographs could be used within the strategy. I expect there will be more news on this topic for the next issue of Tree Watch.

A Request for Tree Stories

The WBC [Tree Project](#) has just launched a request for residents to submit a photograph of a local tree that holds particular significance for them along with their story about the tree. Some of the submissions may also be included in the Tree Strategy. I hope that many of our members will take part and send in their [tree stories](#). If you don't want to take a new photograph of the tree you have in mind, just ask for the photograph in our records if the tree is one we have recorded.

Trees in the national press

In June a scientific [paper](#) was published that used the Ancient Tree Inventory data, so it included our recorded trees. The researchers used a variety of mathematical modelling tools on the data to predict the true abundance of ancient and veteran trees. Random sites were then selected and surveyed thoroughly to validate the models. The results indicate that there could be around two million ancient and veteran trees in England that have not been recorded. For all of us who have surveyed the trees across the borough we know from experience that there are usually far more recordable trees in an area than we were expecting to find, so the results of this research is proof of what we had already discovered. The article was very well [publicised](#), pointing out that these old trees have "almost no" legal protection.

A more recent and amusing press [article](#) also caught my attention. Volunteers surveying dormice and bats

in trees have been surprised to discover common toads in hazel dormouse nest boxes 1.5m from ground level and in tree cavities usually used by bats. Common toads are regarded as terrestrial amphibians spending time on land and in water, but finding that they can and do climb trees was a surprise.

The Bicycle Tree

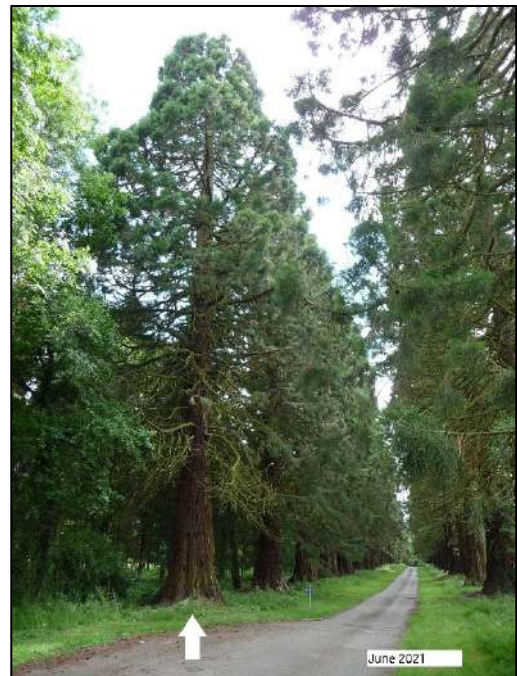
And finally, I have recently been sent these photographs of a tree at Brig o'Turk in the Trossachs in Scotland. The story goes that a man left his bike leaning against this sycamore tree just before he enlisted as a soldier in WW1 and never returned to reclaim it. I like the image of the little girl looking at the handlebars and the tree, a future 'Tree Watcher' I hope.



Two of the photos taken by Alison at Yeldall Manor:



MRN 3422 on the west side of the avenue



MRN 3438 on the east side

PROJECT HAIRSTREAK

This [project](#) has been featured several times in Tree Watch. As part of the project, four disease-resistant elms, *Ulmus minor* 'Ademuz') were planted in the Maiden Erlegh Local Nature Reserve (MELNR) in October 2018 (photo right); [W097 in our Commemorative and Special Trees Inventory]. They were donated by keen lepidopterist and former Earley resident, Richard Beard, now living in Canada, in memory of his father. There was some concern about vandalism when they were planted, as described by Alan Broodbank on the EEG



[website](#); but they have grown well. The photos here were taken last month. Although clearly visible from the path, they are surrounded by stinging nettles, brambles and other vegetation.

The purpose of this project is to provide food for the caterpillars of the white-letter hairstreak butterfly (*Satyrrium w-album*), which feed exclusively on elm species - and in July one of these butterflies was spotted in a nearby garden. Bob Collis took this stunning photo.

WBC GARDEN FOREST SCHEME

Those people who successfully applied for a tree or trees under WBC's [Garden Forest Scheme](#) have been told which species will be available: field maple, silver birch, wild cherry, rowan, hazel or hawthorn. The specified collection points will be communicated in October.

PLATINUM JUBILEE TREES

The [Queens Green Canopy](#) has announced that 70 ancient trees have been dedicated to the Queen as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. They comprise 37 species, with 12 common yew, 11 English oak, 4 sessile oak and sweet chestnut, 3 common beech and sycamore and 2 each of alder and apple.

32 of the 70 are in England, 19 in Scotland, 15 in Wales and 4 in Northern Ireland

In England, Cornwall and Nottinghamshire have 3 each; Berkshire, Gloucestershire, Lincolnshire, London, North Yorkshire and West Sussex all have 2; with another 14 counties having one each.

The two in Berkshire are the 'Ankerwycke Yew' (shown here from our visit in 2019) and the 'Signing Oak'; with the following descriptions:

"At 2,500 years old, the Ankerwycke Yew is the National Trust's oldest tree. It has been reported that King Henry VIII courted and even proposed to Anne Boleyn beneath this tree. Others believe Magna Carta was sealed here, rather than the more popular consensus of Runnymede just across the river from here."

"The Signing Oak in Windsor Great Park is 900 years old. It is one of a number of veteran and ancient trees that form part of the diverse landscape of the Windsor Estate."

You can read a description of this oak in the ATF's summer [newsletter](#).

Reading the details of the 70 trees, the following caught my attention.

- The 'Marriage Tree' in Aberdeenshire is so-called because a branch of a 100-yr-old Scots Pine has seamlessly grafted itself to the trunk of a neighbouring tree, to form a perfect natural arch.
- 'The Oak at the Gate of the Dead', in Wrexham, is thought to date back to the reign of Egbert, King of Wessex, in 802. It was at this site in 1165 that Welsh forces ambushed an invading English army in the Battle of Crogen, and the dead are buried nearby.
- The 'St Edward's Yew' frames the door of St Edward's Church in Stow-on-the-Wold. It allegedly inspired J.R.R Tolkien in his description of the Doors of Durin at the west gate of Moria, in 'The Fellowship of the Ring'
- A 'Baobab Plane', the largest example found in Canterbury; a cultivar of the London plane believed to be suffering from a viral infection leading to visual similarities to the charismatic African baobab tree. Seven of these trees are positioned throughout Canterbury in a cruciform design, although it's not known if this layout across the city was intentional.



As you'd expect, most of these trees are in parks, estates or remote locations, but 3 are in urban settings:

- The 'Wyesham Oak' in Monmouthshire is now the centrepiece of a housing estate, but it pre-dates Monmouth's gated [Monnow Bridge](#) and is thought to have been growing around the time of Geoffrey of Monmouth's birth circa 1095.
- The 'Vangarde Crack Willow' in the Vangarde Shopping Centre, York, has been retained as a veteran tree in a reduced, pollarded form. It's one of the largest crack willows in the UK with a girth of 7.8m.
- The 'Tilgate Hawthorn' in West Sussex is an ancient hawthorn retained during the 1960s despite development in the area. Its trunk is hollow and split "as if cleaved by a giant".

[[WBC](#) will be dedicating a group of their newly planted trees to mark the Queen's Green Canopy, but we don't know where yet.]

WHY NOT GROW YOUR OWN PLATINUM JUBILEE OAKS?

Collect acorns this autumn and plant them up as trees germinating in the Platinum Jubilee year. They can stay in pots for several years, providing they are transplanted to larger pots as needed, before being planted out. That gives you time to find somewhere suitable for their final planting site. There are planting and growing [instructions](#) on the TCV website.

Collecting acorns was a common practice in the past; although probably not for planting up in pots! In October 1875 St Paul's School in Wokingham recorded over 50 pupils being absent for several days because they were "acorning". [See Tree Watch [August 2015](#) p12]

TREES IN LITERATURE

In January 2011 WDVTA held a joint meeting with the Wokingham Literary Society, in which people read their favourite reference to trees from a [variety of sources](#). That was rather a long time ago and we are thinking of repeating it. In the meantime, Sarah Swatridge recommends watching a Zoom [presentation](#) with Tracy Chevalier and Jonathan Drori. *"It was a lovely interview and during the course of the hour she told a short story set around a tree and it was very cleverly written. I seem to remember a woman having several suitors and she got them to meet her under a particular tree, as they all said they shared her love of trees, but actually, there was only one man who really understood and met her under the correct tree because he really did share her interest and knew which tree she meant."*

As I hope you know, as well as being a Tree Warden for Charvil, Sarah Swatridge is also an author (see [Tree Watch #52](#) p14). In May this year, she had a short story published in 'Woman's Weekly'. It's called "Oak Apple Day" and features a Tree Warden. The publishers, Future Publishing Limited, have kindly given us permission to share it with you. [Click here to read it.](#)



DID YOU KNOW?... Wokingham's sculptures are missing from a national database.

'[Discover Artworks](#)' is a great new resource that aims to list all publicly accessible works of art in the UK. It features over 290,000 artworks, but recognises that it hasn't recorded everything. 50,200 sculptures are listed, but sadly none of the lovely ones we have in Wokingham; neither older ones, such as 'The Duck and the World', nor the more recent ones being installed as part of the redevelopment of Wokingham Town. It just needs someone to record them.

There's a map and list display (click on the image to see all the photos).

A search for outdoor sculptures within 10 miles of Spencers Wood, yielded just four tree-related ones, [Scattered Oak](#), [Carved Tree Trunk](#) and [Birch Leaf Bench](#) in Bracknell and [Hexham Road Tree Mural](#) in Reading. Click on the links to see photos from all angles.

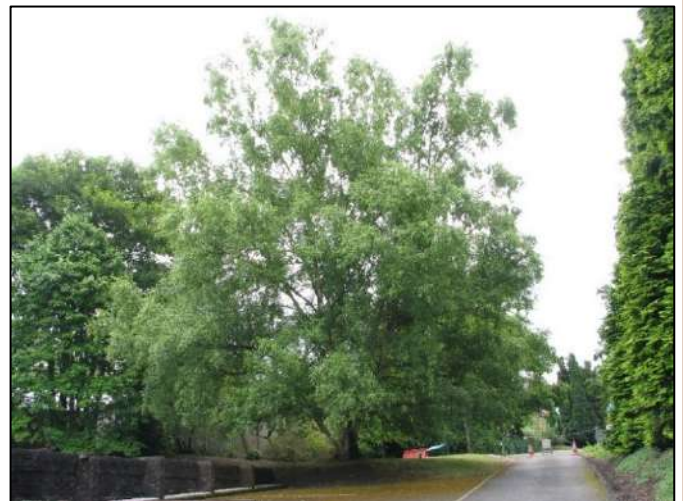
FAQ: WHAT IS MEANT BY A BUNDLED TREE?

Trees are bundled when more than one tree is planted in the same planting hole and, as they grow, they fuse together. It can happen naturally, when birds or small mammals have buried a cache of seeds. The method was recommended by John Evelyn in the 17th century; but pre-dates him. In the 18th and 19th centuries, it became popular with park and estates owners who wanted to produce larger trees with a large spreading crown at an earlier age than a single tree. The Hafod Beech on the Hafod Estate, near Aberystwyth is one such example and is included in the 70 ancient trees that the '[Queen's Green Canopy](#)' have chosen to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

An excellent example is a bundled beech in Silwood Park in Ascot. If the individual trees are closely related the fusion is complete and difficult to see (*rhs in this photo*), whereas if they are more genetically distinct, the fusion is more obvious (*lhs*).



Bundling isn't always successful. Competition between the individual trees can lead to failure. In Britain today, bundling is seen mainly in beech trees; but there are references to bundled oaks and other species. At Silwood there is also a bundled sweet chestnut and silver birch (*below*). The silver birch illustrates the problems of recognising a bundled tree. It looks like a multi stem. A multi stem tree could be bundled.



With most cases bundling is identified from the external appearance of the tree trunk; but when a freak wind brought down a copper beech in Sezincote, Gloucestershire in 1994, and the trunk was cut into sections, it obviously consisted of five stems fused together, with most of the bark intact around the individual stems. An obvious bundled tree. It even had an iron bar sticking up in the centre, the original tree stake!

Ted Green suggests bundled planting was a traditional woodland management practice, along with pollarding and coppicing. Bundles scattered through areas of pollards would provide regular mast crops and good shade.

SPECIES IN FOCUS – PURPLE OR COPPER BEECH (*FAGUS SYLVATICA* 'PURPUREA')

10 miscellaneous facts about the Copper Beech:

1. This is a mutation of the European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), first noted in 1690 in the Possenwald forest in Germany. It's assumed about 99% of all copper beeches in the world are descendants of this copper beech.
2. The purple colour results from a high concentration of anthocyanins, water-soluble pigments in the cell vacuoles, that may appear red, purple, blue, or black, depending on their pH. They occur in all tissues of higher plants [except the Caryophyllales (cacti, beets, carnations, ice plants etc)].
3. The epidermis (outer layer) of the leaf of Copper Beeches contains high level of anthocyanins which mask the underlying green chlorophyll.
4. Anthocyanins may have a protective role against extreme temperatures and may help to avoid attacks by herbivores normally attracted by green colour. They also contribute to the autumn colours of many trees; but in those cases (unlike carotenoids), they are not present in the leaf throughout the growing season, but are produced toward the end of summer. Anthocyanins producing autumn colour are present in about 10% of tree species in temperate regions, but up to 70% of tree species in New England.
5. In many copper beeches the leaves turn deep spinach green by mid-summer.
6. In *"The Field Guide to Trees of Britain and Northern Europe"*, Alan Mitchell describes this variety as *"Grossly overplanted in villages, rectory gardens, churchyards, parks, and all commemorative plantings. Only 'Rivers Purple' a superior dark red form can, occasionally, be excused."*
7. We don't know whether the trees shown here are 'Rivers Purple' or not! I was prompted to feature this tree when Sarah Swatridge sent me photos (top) of *"the most beautiful purple beech"* in the grounds of Tewkesbury Abbey. This is ATI [117087](#), recorded with a girth of 5m at 1.5m in July 2018 and 5.81m at 1.3m in Sept 2018. It's considered a natural pollard. The photo of the trunk suggests it's bundled.
8. The middle photo is of a lovely tree in the Avebury Cricket ground, seen *en route* from the car park to the Avebury Stone Circle (SU 10060 69790).
9. We have 25 in our database, with 11 in Wokingham Town and 8 in Wargrave. The largest (MRN [5847](#)) was in the garden of the Old Vicarage in Wargrave (bottom photo). It was a maiden, also possibly bundled, with a girth of 4.5m at 1.5m in 2011. It was felled to ground level in Nov 2015 for safety reasons. It had a significant fungal (*Meripilus* sp.) infection.
10. TROBI records one with a girth of 7.14m (measured at 1m in 2007) in the private Syston Park, near Grantham in Lincolnshire (#44133). It's a Britain & Ireland Champion for girth. The largest in the ATI (#[24964](#)) had a girth of 6.84m (at 1.5m) in 2009 and also looks bundled. It's in [Moggerhanger Park](#) in Bedfordshire (open daily/free access).



Veteran Tree Survey snapshot

BEECH TREES

2%

of the trees in our
database

30

in Arborfield and in
Wokingham Town

4

parishes haven't
recorded any

85

common beech

71

beech-probably
common beech

25

copper beech

2

weeping beech

78%

maidens

5.7m

largest girth

15%

girth over 4m

44%

in woodland

THEN AND NOW

The '[Duck and the World](#)' in 2009 and now.

It was carved from MRN [1188](#) and is on Swan Island in Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve.



What a shame to see it in this state!

There are many new sculptures being erected within the Borough, some related to trees, and several have featured in previous issues of 'Tree Watch'.

I hope they will be better cared for.

SILLY SEASON.

August always used to be considered the "silly season" in the newspapers. I doubt it applies today, with so much serious news to report now.

The following story would be funny if it didn't involve a waste of public money. Westminster Council had a problem in one of their parks. Pigeons like a particular branch that has a seat underneath. Their droppings were considered a "public safety" problem, "rendering [the bench] unusable and unhygienic". The Council had to find a solution. At this point you are probably thinking what I'm thinking. The solution is obvious. However, they decided to put giant spikes on the branch! After public objections, they decided to take the spikes down and consider other options. The press [report](#) includes a photo of the spikes.

PUB NAMES

How many pubs names are related to trees? If this sound frivolous, it's a perfect feature for the "silly season". Having seen some leaflets mentioning the 'Two Poplars' in Wokingham and 'The Newtown Pipin' in Bracknell, Sarah Swatridge wondered about other examples. She points out that a pipin is a red and yellow dessert apple, but also American slang for an excellent person or thing, so perhaps this pub wasn't named after an apple!

TREE RELATED PUB NAMES IN BERKSHIRE

Sarah Swatridge

By far the most common pub named after a tree, is 'The Royal Oak'. There are at least seven locally in Sunninghill, Ruscombe, Knowl Hill, Reading, Bracknell, Yattendon and Windsor.

In addition, there is 'The White Oak' at Cookham with a sister pub, 'The Three Oaks' in Gerrards Cross. There are loads of pictures on their website, but no sign of a tree, other than in their logo.

Then there's 'Hernes Oak' in Winkfield, which doesn't seem to be a pub any more, but has been converted into office space. It's the same for 'The Round Oak' at Padworth, which has also closed and is now residential accommodation, but it has retained its name.

In addition, we have 'The Queen's Oak' at Finchampstead, apparently named because Queen Victoria planted an oak opposite the pub.

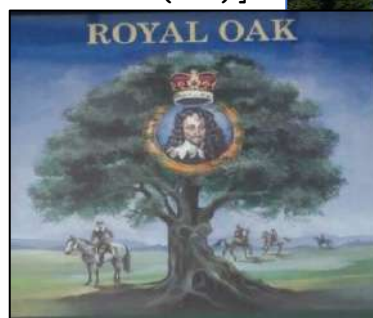
As well as oaks, we have inns named after various other trees: for example: 'The Silver Birch' in Bracknell is run by Greene King as is the 'Two Poplars' in Wokingham; 'The Elm Tree' in Beech Hill; 'The Chestnuts' in Langley, 'The Newtown Pippin' in Bracknell and the exotic 'Lemon Tree' in Slough. There's also 'The Cherry Tree' at Stoke Row. Sadly, when I've looked at websites, none of them feature the tree that gave them their name.

Lastly, 'The William Twigg' (you may feel I'm stretching things here) is/was a pub in Bracknell with a tree growing through the middle of the building and I felt that deserved a mention!

Some pubs have a page on their website about the history of the pub and/or the origin of its name; but, sadly, most don't. There are, however, web sites that list pub names - both [open](#) and [closed](#).

There are currently 412 open pubs called the 'Royal Oak', making it the third most popular name. [In case you're wondering, the most popular is the 'Red Lion' (529), with the 'Crown' second (489).]

About 1,140 pubs with 'oak' in their name have been closed, of which 912 were called the 'Royal Oak'; including one at School Green, Shinfield (shown left) which closed in 2014 and is now a Co-op store.



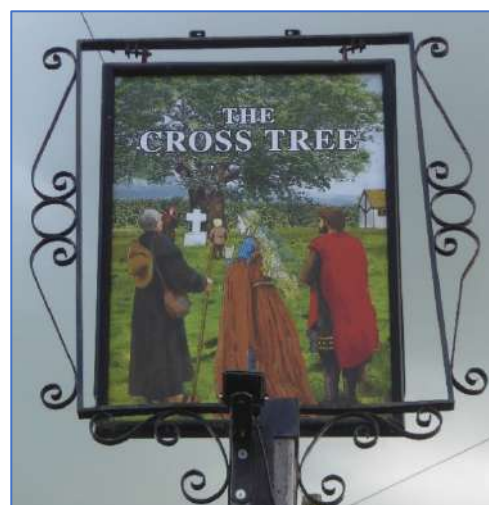
Of pubs with 'tree' in their name, 250 are currently open, but 2,230 have been closed.

On my frequent visits to Daventry, I pass one called 'The Cross Tree' in Byfield, West Northamptonshire. The name has an interesting history, although there's no reference to it on the pub website.

'The Cross Tree', an elm planted in 1753, survived for just over 200 years, before succumbing to Dutch Elm Disease. It was next to the Market Cross, a marker for a bartering place where cattle and sheep were bought and sold. The elm tree was a popular shady meeting spot and became known as 'The Cross Tree'. The remains of the cross (right) are still there, next to the war memorial. Old [photos](#) show the elm adjacent to the war memorial. When the old elm's roots were dug-out sometime in the 1970's, Byfield's school children prepared and buried a time capsule where the old tree had been. An oak was planted to replace the elm, but there is no sign of it now; just the plaque recording its planting on the last day of 1979.



By the mid-19th century, Byfield already had four pubs: the 'White Lion', the 'Bell', the 'New Bell Inn' and the 'Rose & Crown'. When another one was built it was called 'The New Inn'; but some villagers considered the name and its icon rather bland and held a competition to rename it. 'The Cross Tree' was chosen, with a sign showing the old cross and the elm tree (below right). It's several roads away from site of the tree and is now the only pub in Byfield.



RECOMMENDED NEWS ITEMS *Just click on the green links*

WOODLAND TRUST TREE OF THE YEAR SHORTLIST

Brian Hunt reminded me that it's that time of the year when the Woodland Trust produces a short-list for 'Tree of the Year'. There are 12 nominations for 2022. Even if you aren't interested in voting, do have a look at the superb [photos](#).

NORTH WALES' ANCIENT FELLED PONTFADOG OAK RETURNS IN FIVE CLONED SAPLINGS

Brian Hunt also sent me this link to a delightful article in the Guardian. "It was more than just an oak tree sitting in a field, it was part of the family." When this ancient sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) was felled, a number of branches about the thickness of a pencil were taken and have been successfully propagated.

GAS COMPANY PAYS NEARLY £3,000 COMPENSATION OVER CHOPPED TREE

Southern Gas Networks felled a horse chestnut tree on the River Kennet towpath in Reading, without permission, in March 2021. They have now been fined.

FIRST SCOTTISH TREE HUGGING CHAMPIONSHIPS

I don't suggest we follow suit!!

PLANS FOR A NORTHERN FOREST

The planned forest of 50 million trees, stretching from Hull to Liverpool, is expected to absorb 600,000 tonnes of CO₂.

IS NATURAL ENGLAND AT RISK OF BEING CONSUMED INTO DEFRA?

This proposal was made in a recent government consultation on nature recovery.

FOX HILL WOODS CONSERVATION REPORT JULY 2022

Previous reports are also on this '*Friends of Fox Hill*' website.

CHURCHES IN THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD GET ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

This includes churches in Wokingham, although to what extent they have contributed is not clear.

SATELLITE IMAGES REVEAL HIGHEST DEFORESTATION RATE OF AMAZON RAINFOREST IN SIX YEARS STAGGERING RATE OF GLOBAL TREE LOSSES FROM FIRES HOW 40 MILLION AUSTRALIAN TREES DIED OF THIRST

WHY DO THE TREES THINK IT'S AUTUMN ALREADY?

THE COOLING EFFECT OF TREES WAS DISCUSSED IN BBC 'INSIDE SCIENCE' OF 11TH AUGUST

APP-CONTROLLED COWS HELP PROTECT ANCIENT WOODLAND

SPACE TECH HELPING TO TACKLE DEFORESTATION

CELEBRATING NEW WAYS OF REDUCING CO₂. THE ART OF CUTTING CARBON - The paper industry is responsible for a large amount of CO₂ emissions. We don't have paperless offices and a large amount of paper is consumed each year. If you could remove the ink from paper and re-use the paper, that would reduce the amount of CO₂ produced as well as saving a lot of trees!

DERBY'S URBAN FOREST

About 425 trees and shrubs created a mini forest in the Market Place for 6 weeks in May, before being planted elsewhere.

A&E FOR TREES IN INDIA

A heart-warming description of tree care, which should be replicated elsewhere.

JAMES LOVELOCK, who originated the Gaia theory, died on his birthday last month at the age of 103. The [Guardian](#) has collated a collection of article and videos about his life and work. His life was also summarised in Radio 4's '[Last Word](#)'.

"If you take [a tree] to the sawmill and cut it, then the branches are a problem: they are the weakest point of the timber product. But if you don't cut it, it's actually the strongest point of the whole tree."

Alvar Aalto, designer of Finlandia Hall in Helsinki, a reusable building held up by trees. Watch the [video](#)

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



Trees have many uses. Here they are advertising cheese! Caws is Welsh for cheese.

They've been planted on a hillside above the village of Rosebush in Pembrokeshire, in to a field adjacent to Pant Mawr Farm, which produces [Pant Mawr Farmhouse Cheeses](#). And very nice they are too!

Some sources used in this issue: all web pages accessed 19-08-2022 (unless stated otherwise).

Links embedded in the text are not repeated here. -Email me if you want a list of them.

Species in Focus: Mitchell, Alan (1974) 'A Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe' ISBN 0 00 212035 6 (page 221)

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/copper-beech/>

<https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/tree-search/tree?treeid=24964#/> <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/07/beece-tree-facts/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fagus_sylvatic <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthocyanin>

<https://www.kidpid.com/why-are-the-leaves-of-some-plants-not-green-in-colour/>

FAQ: 'Tree News' 1995 & 1996: <http://dendrochronicle.co.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Bundle-planting-evidence-summary.pdf>;

Mick Crawley (personal communication)

Images may be subject to copyright, so please do not reproduce any without checking first.

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 has recorded our trees.
We wouldn't have a database without you.