



On 26th February, we had **8,553** trees in our database and **13,638** photographs

Welcome to the latest issue of Tree Watch.

We have our AGM on Monday 27th March in Wokingham Town Hall at 19:30.

We do hope you can come.

It's being held there because we are expecting a lot of interest in the talk by Professor Mathias Disney "Weighing Trees with lasers: new insights from tropical forests to urban churchyards". See page [2](#).

The photos here were taken on our winter walk in Ruscombe last December. It was led by Stephen Loyd, who is addressing the group in the photo below. There was some very impressive mistletoe in the roadside trees (as seen in both photos). See page [7](#).



This was just one of our activities in 2022. There is an excellent review of our activities in 2022 on our [website](#). Do read it.

The next issue of Tree Watch will be May 2023 and the copy deadline is 30th April. 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 underlined in dark green are links to further details (obviously not when printed).

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Events - March - April 2023

- ❖ Monday 27th March 19:30 - Wokingham Town Hall - AGM and talk by Prof. Mathias Disney
"Weighing Trees with lasers: new insights from tropical forests to urban churchyards".

Non-WDVTa events:

- ❖ Tuesday 7th March 19:00 - 'Exploring Nature's Calendar' - free online webinar from the Woodland Trust. [Booking required](#).
- ❖ Saturday 18th March 10:00-16:00 TVERC Spring Recorders' Conference - hybrid in-person and online event. [Booking required](#).

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

AGM TALK - MATHIAS DISNEY

We are very fortunate to have [Mat Disney](#), Professor of Remote Sensing at University College, London, to talk to us at our AGM. He uses new measurement techniques, from ground and from space, to explore why trees and forests look the way they do, how much carbon is stored in trees and forests and how this changes with climate and other disturbances. There is a lot we still don't know about trees and Mat has shown how new, highly-detailed 3D measurements of tree size and shape are challenging some previous assumptions, with major implications for understanding how trees and forests function.

His work at Wytham Woods in Oxfordshire was reported in the [news](#) recently because it highlighted the importance of mature trees in the fight against climate change. Using 3D laser scanning, the carbon storage capacity of mature trees was shown to be double that previously estimated. Hence removal of mature trees results in the loss of twice as much carbon storage as previously estimated.

There are some interesting on-line videos featuring the work done at Wytham Woods, including a [virtual walk](#) through the canopy, using 3D terrestrial laser scanning data (70 seconds). Describing the use of lasers and satellites more generally, "[The Woodlands of the Future](#)" (4.5 minutes) includes a section on laser measurement by Mat (scroll down to select individual sections).

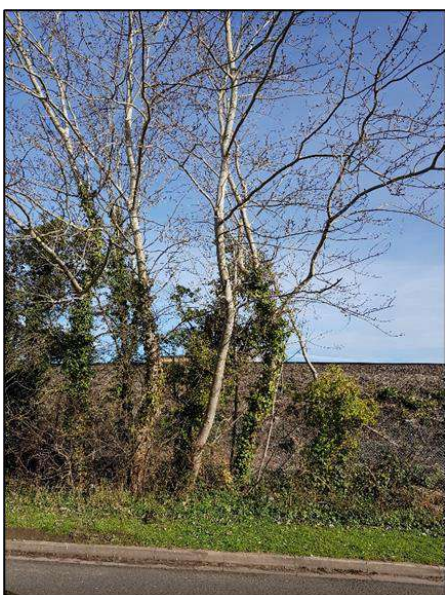
The title of his talk to us is "*Weighing Trees with lasers: new insights from tropical forests to urban churchyards*". You can watch a 60-minute related video "[Weighing trees with lasers: new 3D insights](#)" or read his Royal Society [article](#) on weighing trees.

On a related topic there's a good 8-minute ESA video "[Observing vegetation and mapping land use change](#)". It's part of a five-part series giving "[Overview of optical Earth observation technology](#)".

Our visit to Wytham Woods in October 2018 was described in Tree Watch [39](#) (page 11).

TREE WATCHING FROM MY CHAIR

Alison Griffin



Before I start writing my piece for Tree Watch I always reread the last edition. The breadth of topics, the links to multiple further websites and articles and of course the photographs always make it an interesting read and I have never reread it without finding new topics and links that I hadn't assimilated earlier.



Elaine's regular '*Species in Focus*' page on the railway poplar reminded me of visits to the embankments of the railway line in Winnersh when Network Rail were doing clearance work and I checked on some of our recorded trees nearby. At one site I found a group of poplar trees all under a metre girth (*photo left*) and took some photographs of buds and bark but only got as far as 'a poplar hybrid' in trying to work out what they were. Poplar tree identification needs bud, catkin and leaf as well as the bark markings and I haven't been back at the right season to see the catkins and leaves. I did read about the railway

poplar hybrid at the time and thought that's what these might be.

The autumn photographs of both fungi and tree leaf colour were stunning in the last edition too and I followed the link to [MRN 9332](#), the red oak at Folly Court and looked through all the photographs. As you will know I have certain local trees that I specifically look at, at certain times of year. This red oak will be one I will visit in the autumn, not just for the stunning colour, nor even to appreciate that the development was designed to give the tree plenty of space, but because it had acorns! I have never seen a red oak acorn. Even with all the red oaks we have around the town and in Finchampstead I have not yet seen one with an acorn.



I am writing in early February on a very sunny but cold day. After the delayed autumn leaf drop for many tree species, I think many trees and garden plants are not showing signs of spring as early as they have in the last few years. Our snowdrops are only just in bloom, I saw a first daffodil out yesterday and the hazel catkins seem later too. Last year I included this photograph (left) of a mimosa tree and here is the tree exactly a year later (right). Apart from the flower buds being barely yellow this year, what I also noticed was



there was no colour on half the tree (the right-hand side in the photograph). Peeping through the hedge I can see that the tree is in fact two trunks at the base, but even so it is interesting that the two halves will blossom at different times this year.

Wokingham Borough Tree Strategy and Garden Tree scheme

I hope you were able to review the draft Tree Strategy for the Borough while it was open for consultation and feedback. We did send a couple of emails with the links to let everyone know the consultation was open. As an association we sent some detailed feedback and we have published this on our [website](#) so you can read all the comments we made. Overall, the strategy has a lot of very helpful and relevant links and those are well worth knowing about and using. Many of our suggestions and requests have been included which we appreciated, nevertheless our feedback included comments on many topics as well as requests for inclusion of missing factual data and a few corrections too.

The Borough's Garden Forest project offered residents whips of native species to plant in their garden, and these were made available in the autumn. Here's my hawthorn (with the protection to avoid local dogs, foxes, deer, lawn mower and even the discarded food waste container accidentally hitting it). The second round of applications for Garden Forest trees closed on 12th February. The aim is to distribute trees in March so they can be planted at the end of this year's tree planting season. Species available are crab apple, hazel, hawthorn, rowan, silver birch and field maple.



Media articles on trees

'The Search for Britain's Lost Rainforests' was the eye-catching headline to a very interesting article in The New Scientist in November that Malcolm Inglis told me about. The author was Guy Shrubsole who moved to Devon and found a few patches of rare temperate rainforest hidden in deep gorges where he saw 'branches dripping with mosses and trees festooned with lichens and liverworts' where 'in winter, when deciduous trees lose their leaves, these woodlands were green with a verdant luminosity due to the plethora

of species clinging to them'. The full [article](#) is well worth reading.

Forestry Research published a report late last year about the benefits of the non-woodland trees across Britain. I read about the report through a summary in 'The Guardian'. It covers a lot of what we have been saying for a long time; that the carbon capture, pollution reduction, flood mitigation as well as the aesthetic value of trees applies to stand alone, small groups, street and garden trees as well as to the copses, woods and forests of course. What is new is that this [report](#) included calculations on these benefits for the non-woodland trees.

AGM - March 27th, Wokingham Town Hall, 7.30pm

After many years as the Chairman of the association, I will be standing down from the role at our AGM in March. So this will be my last 'Tree Watching from my Chair' contribution to Tree Watch.

Many voluntary groups like ours struggle to resource the committee roles that make them function and many people on these committees find themselves needing to step in and take on tasks 'because there is no-one else to do them'.

If you are able to help with the workload for the association or even are able to join the committee, or even offer to take over the Chairman or Vice chairman role which is also vacant, then do please contact me, or Kerry, or Derek for an informal chat.

Now you may wonder why we have booked the Wokingham Town Hall for the AGM meeting. Following hearing about Professor Mathias Disney's report on carbon capture at Wytham Woods, Kerry contacted him and he has very kindly agreed to give a talk to us on this work at our AGM. We do hope you will get the date into your diary and come along for a short formal AGM session followed by his talk.

"The complex structure of mature trees

means they play a role [in carbon capture] that is very difficult to replace by simply planting more trees."

Prof Mathias Disney (2022) "[Wytham Woods](#)"

FIVE NEW OAK TREES FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Barbara Stagles

Following the success of WDVTA's joint project with Wokingham Borough Council in 2012/13 to plant 60 oak trees across the borough to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, our committee agreed in 2021 that we should plant more oak trees to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee - sometime between 6th February and 2nd June 2022.

Unfortunately, because of concerns about tree disease transmission through transporting plants into and within the UK, we could not access new trees from Barcham Tree Nursery in Cambridgeshire. It was from here that we had sourced the 60 Diamond Jubilee Trees in 2012. Luckily we found a local nursery, Oaktree Garden Centre in Bracknell, which had five suitable, if somewhat straggly, oak trees available. WDVTA bought these at a very reasonable cost. They were delivered to my garden in Wokingham in 2021 to await planting.

In February 2022 Oliver Ward of Heartwood Tree Surgery, Riseley, planted one of these trees in Swallowfield Meadow with WBC approval. This tree will double up as a Diamond Jubilee tree replacement for the two successive trees that had failed in Swallowfield Recreation Ground. Oliver also planted a second tree in Winnersh Meadows where another Diamond Jubilee tree had been vandalised. Thankfully WBC has now replaced the destroyed tree so our Jubilee tree will count just as a Platinum Jubilee tree. We are glad that at least two of these Platinum Jubilee trees had been planted before the death of the Queen in September.

We had not identified three other suitable sites by the end of the planting season in 2022 so the remaining three trees stayed in my garden to be taken care of during the dry summer months. As these three trees were of a slightly unusual shape, we were grateful to Steve Radford for pruning them carefully when he

collected and delivered them to their new homes in November 2022. Two WDVTA members had agreed sites with WBC for them. Sarah Swatridge found a place in Charvil Meadows (*photo below right*) and Stephanie McKay found sites for one to be planted in Riverside Walk and another in a green space off Ruskin Way, Woosehill (*photo below*).

All the trees will need care and watering for the next three years at least and we will try to provide this. However we



would welcome volunteers to help look after one of the trees near their home, in particular in the Swallowfield and Winnersh areas. Please contact me via [TreeWatch @ wdvta.org.uk](mailto:TreeWatch@wdvta.org.uk).

[What Barbara has modestly omitted from her description is that all five of these oaks were bought to commemorate her 90th birthday, as well as to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We refer to them as Barbara's oaks, which is very appropriate as she cared for them so well. See 'Barbara's Jubilee Trees' in [Tree Watch Nov 2021](#) p3. -Ed]

FAQ: SHOULD I PLANT A TREE IN A ROUND OR A SQUARE HOLE?

For a pot grown tree, a square hole is recommended because the roots are more likely to carry on going round in a circle if planted in a round hole.

BUT in a recent Tree Council [webinar](#), John Stokes referred to research that showed no difference between bare rooted whips planted in round, square or star-shaped holes.

OTHER RECENT TREE PLANTING

More trees have been planted as part of Charvil's contribution to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Wokingham's Tree Project. A total of 233 have been planted since Nov 2021. Most recently, at the end of January, 20 more trees were planted, wood chipped and fenced. Mike Heath, Charvil Parish Councillor, has sent me details of all these plantings and they will all be added to our Commemorative and Special Tree Inventory in due course. Charvil's efforts are very impressive. The latest 20 trees were from the garden forest project that had been delivered to Charvil, but not been claimed by Charvil residents. Incidentally, in the first batch of requests for trees under the Garden Forest Scheme, people were just asked how many trees they wanted and chose the species when they collected them. In the second round, people were asked which species they wanted. You also didn't have to supply a photo or details of your garden for the second round, making the application process very simple. I don't know whether there will be any follow-up to see how many of these trees survive.

In Twyford two hornbeam trees are to be planted in the two public recreation grounds to celebrate 300 years of the Edward Polehampton charitable trust established to help the education of Twyford's children.

ANNETTE GREATHEAD 1929-2022

Kerry Clissold

Annette, who died last November aged 93, was a long-standing and founder member of WDVTA. Between May 2008 and Dec 2019, she added an enviable 271 tree records to our list (47% of the trees recorded in Wargrave). Barbara Stables, Penny Miller, Kim Potter and Judith Stephenson were amongst members who accompanied Annette recording trees for our survey and all echoed similar sentiments particularly noting her all-round competence in this task. Barbara sums this up in her comments below:



'For several years I spent many happy hours with Annette surveying veteran trees in the Wargrave area. She was not only interested in, and knowledgeable about, the old trees and plants in general but also very systematic and precise in her record keeping. I learned a great deal from her and enjoyed visiting her in her lovely garden and the local area she knew so well.'

She was also a regular volunteer on work parties at Mumbery Field and the Chalk Pit in Wargrave.

Annette, herself a graduate of St. Andrews University, spent years in Africa and travelled widely with her husband, Dr David Greathead, where she became his professional colleague. David was a renowned scientist working in the field of biological control. The family moved from country to country with several 'adventures' including leaving Uganda at the time of Idi Amin. They returned to the UK, for David to work at Silwood Park, part of Imperial College. Annette's hospitality was noted by foreign students stranded at Silwood, unable to return home for holidays but made most welcome at the Greathead's home.

I didn't have the pleasure of surveying with Annette but would sometimes walk part of the way on WDVTA visits alongside her. I must say that I do remember her as one recalls a favourite teacher on a field trip, marvelling at just how much one person knew and how generously she shared that wisdom. This is not to forget that wonderful

sense of humour and grin as she scrambled over a fence!

WDVTA exists and thrives because people such as Annette become members and our survey is testament to that. Annette will be sadly missed by her family and many friends in WDVTA and worldwide.

The photos here span over 10 years: Annette (with Linda Ashwell) at an identification workshop in July 2008; on a WDVTA walk led by Stephen Loyd in April 2009; and recording data in Wargrave in January 2019. In the last photo, Annette is in red and the tree is a crack willow growing in a garden alongside Hennerton Backwater. This large collapsed pollard (MRN [8426](#)), with a girth of 7.24m at ground level, has re-rooted where it's fallen, a characteristic of such trees.



THE VETERAN TREE SURVEY

Originally our aim was to record veteran trees, defined as any tree with a girth of 3m or more, and any tree considered significant for other reasons. We then realised that several small tree species are likely to become veteran with smaller girths and we set the following cut-offs:

- **1m** - hawthorns; fruit trees (except cherries), wild service tree
- **2m** - birch, field maple, rowan, hornbeam, holly, cherry, alder, hazel
- **2.5m** - other species

Because we didn't stress the importance of recording these smaller species at the beginning and because they are often "hidden" in hedges and hence overlooked, we have probably seriously under-recorded them. When the Commemorative and Special Trees Inventory was established, significant trees that didn't meet the girth criteria were removed from the Veteran Tree Database and added to that inventory.

Other small trees have been removed over the years, but now the survey is closed the data is being checked for inconsistencies, resulting in another 32 trees being deleted. Twelve of these will be moved to the non-veteran inventory. Some trees with smaller girths have been left in, especially where they show veteran features. The reason for their inclusion is in the comment field. Veteran limes should have a girth of 4.5m or more; but some with girths of around 2m have been left in the database. They are 53 limes with an average girth of 2.1m in the double lime avenue at Barkham planted in 1886 by John Walter III; and 6 limes with an average girth of 2.3m in Langborough Recreation Ground because they are part of a line of 25 limes around three sides of the park, the others having girths of 2.5m or more.

WDVTA WALK IN RUSCOMBE

The 4th December last year was chilly and cloudy, but there was no rain. We had a very pleasant walk, led by Stephen Loyd, followed by lunch in the Royal Oak. There was a good turn-out for a December morning, with 18 on the walk and 16 for lunch. We met outside St James Church, with its ancient yew tree (MRN [2277](#) - below left). After admiring the mistletoe in trees on Southbury Lane just beyond church (photo on page 1), we walked up Church Lane and noticed a large poplar (below right) in a private garden by the road. It's a late addition to our database (MRN [9354](#)).



We continued to Ruscombe Wood, where we saw some lovely old lapsed coppices with large stools, but none of them have been recorded. Ruscombe Wood, north of the church, is the triangular area between Castle End Road (on the east side) and the bridle way that runs to the east of Northbury

Farm. It's labelled Bluebell Wood on Google Maps. Stephen organises the '[Friends of Ruscombe Wood](#)' (Forwood) who maintain the woods using traditional methods. He described how the woods were used in the past and showed us an old tool used for stripping willow (*photo above right*). This was an annual practice until the 1950s, when willow baskets were replaced by plastic ones.



Veteran Tree Survey snapshot

WESTERN RED CEDAR

11

trees in our
database

27% (4)

in churchyards

27% (4)

in domestic
gardens

3

parishes
(Swallowfield,
Hurst, Wargrave)

73% (8)

in Wargrave

6

maidens

4.6m girth

largest maiden
(MRN [2681](#))

5

multi stems

plus 1

'Zebrina' variety
in Arborfield -
MRN [6476](#) TROBI
girth champion

DID YOU KNOW?... *Your old or broken laptop is needed.*

ReTec (Recycling Technology) is recycling them for use by families in need: Ukrainian refugees, charities, schools and local non-profit organisations. All data will be removed, they will be cleaned, refurbished, tested, and then loaded with basic applications. Even laptops that are very old or broken could still be used for parts. Mice, laptop bags and power supplies are also wanted. You can drop them off at libraries: Finchampstead, Lower Earley, Spencers Wood, Twyford, Wargrave, Winnersh, Wokingham and Woodley; as well at [other centres](#). The WDVTA laptop, bought with lottery funds in 2007, has "died" and been donated to this scheme. With so many people having their own laptops now, we don't plan to replace it from WDVTA funds.

A similar scheme in Hampshire delivered more than 2,500 laptops. Let's hope the scheme will be as successful in Wokingham.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN HURST

Dennis Bryant

The main topic of concern in Hurst currently is the proposed development of about 200 houses east of Lodge Road and Tape Lane (application no. [220458](#)). The proposal included an extremely comprehensive arboricultural survey report prepared by Arbtech consultancy and Elaine has extracted details of 11 noteworthy trees now included in our WDVTA database. Some of the individual and groups of trees have a TPO.

The application was turned down by WBC in a very comprehensive report including defending the trees and an ancient hedge on the site. This included 402 letters of objection on various matters from residents and the Parish Council. However, Arbtech has replied to the arboricultural comments point by point and the application went to appeal. The appeal was heard at the end of January and we now await the Inspector's decision. Reading through the appeal documents I see that Chris Hannington (WBC Tree and Landscape Team) presented a robust critique of the developer's submission, with detailed comments on trees and the ancient hedge, with particular concern and detailed requirements for necessary root protection. Similarly, John Osborne (ex-Director of Environment for Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Deputy Director of Environment for Hampshire County Council), presented a strong case against the proposed development on behalf of Hurst Village Society. So the case for tree and environmental protection has been strongly made by these knowledgeable specialists, backed up by a barrister acting for Hurst Parish Council.

I gather that a similar proposal is now proposed in Ruscombe, so let's hope that WBC will defend that one just as vigorously.

LITTLECOTE HOUSE - HUNGERFORD

Littlecote House is not one house, but three, the earliest dating back to around 1250 but in the grounds are the remains of a Roman villa and the best Roman mosaic I've ever seen!

There were many glorious veteran oaks around the [Roman ruins](#) and I'd taken several photos before it dawned on me, that here I was taking a picture of an ancient oak (*below*), approximately 300+ years old, when actually it hadn't even been planted when the villa was in use!

The oldest part of the villa dates back to around 60AD, although it was extended many times over the next 400 years.

The mosaic depicts Orpheus, the god of the underworld, and is amazing. Entry is free and well worth it, but Littlecote House is now a Warner's hotel and only open to residents.

Inside Littlecote House itself is a Jerusalem staircase made of oak. Katherine of Aragon gifted Sir Edward Darrell, her vice-chamberlain, ten oaks in 1530. These oaks were already said to be 500 years old when cut. Cromwell's soldiers climbed these stairs to reach their dormitory. The staircase is still in use today.



There are many good walks in the area, including one to the nearby village of [Chilton Foliat](#). Here, near the site of the old Stag Inn (now a petrol station) is a London Plane tree said to be over 300 years old!

At St Mary's Church in the village there is an avenue of limes which is a memorial to those killed in the First World War and to the west of the avenue individual trees commemorate villagers killed in WW2.

SADLY DEPARTED - THE HARDY ASH

Dennis Bryant drew my attention to the demise of this tree. Also known as 'The Thomas Hardy Tree', it fell down on 27th December. Growing in the Old St Pancreas Churchyard, it was surrounded by tombstones and was one of twenty trees added to the '[Great Trees of London](#)' in 2008.

In the 1860s, the new Midland Railway line was being built across part of the original St Pancreas Churchyard. The novelist and poet Thomas Hardy was working as an assistant architect at the time and supervised the removal of the burials to a new churchyard. The remaining headstones were stacked around the tree in 1865, presumably under his direction. Hence the name.

After storm damage earlier in 2022, the crown was reduced. Thus, when the tree did fall, it fell [within the fenced area](#). A fungal infection had been diagnosed in 2014 and it's assumed this was the ultimate cause of death.

Camden Council may create a commemorative sculpture from the fallen trunk and/or plant a new tree.



By David Edgar - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

SPECIES IN FOCUS – WESTERN RED CEDAR (*THUJA PLICATA*)

12 miscellaneous facts about the Western Red Cedar.

1. *Thuja plicata* is an evergreen coniferous tree native to western North America. It's often called Red Cedar in USA, not to be confused with *Juniperus virginiana*, a Florida native, also called Red Cedar. Both belong to the cypress family Cupressaceae, and neither are true cedars (family Pinaceae).
2. Linnaeus named the genus in 1753. 'Thuja' comes from the Greek 'thuo', meaning "to sacrifice", since cedar wood was often burned with animal sacrifices to add a pleasing aroma to the fire. The species name 'plicata' derives from the Latin word 'plicāre' meaning 'folded in plaits' or 'braided', a reference to the pattern of its small leaves.
3. Introduced to Great Britain in 1853, it was first recorded in the wild in 1954 and considered invasive in a 2004 survey, (but not listed as such by the Government).
4. It's known by various names, simply Red Cedar, or Western Redcedar, Pacific Red Cedar, Giant Arborvitae or Western Arborvitae (because of the supposed medicinal properties of the sap, bark, and twigs - 'arborvitae' deriving from the Latin for 'tree of life'). Native Americans of the West Coast refer to it as 'long life maker', Shinglewood, Giant Cedar, or just Cedar. It's the official tree of British Columbia, where it's called the British Columbia Cedar or Canoe Cedar.
5. There are various cultivars. 'Zebrina', introduced in 1868, has an RHS Award of Garden Merit.
6. The species is monoecious, with both male and female flowers growing on the same tree. Male cones are small and inconspicuous. Female ones are small, reddish-purple, and borne near the tips of branches.
7. It's a large tree, the largest species in the genus. The Quinalt Lake Red Cedar, in Washington State, USA, was the world's largest Western Red Cedar; 53m (174 ft) tall with a girth of 18.5m. It was destroyed by a series of storms in 2014 and 2016 and is now only a glorified stump. In the UK, TROBI records a tree (#175224) with a girth of 7.8m (at 1m in 2006) in Buckfastleigh, Devon. The largest specimen in our database is in St Nicholas's Churchyard, Hurst (photo top). Its girth was 4.56m in 2009. This record (MRN 2681) is in TROBI as the Berkshire County Champion for girth.
8. Some trees can live well over a thousand years, with the oldest verified age being 1,460 years.
9. The bark is reddish, described as *cinnamon red*, *purplish red-brown* or *grey-brown*. The foliage is strongly aromatic, reminiscent of crushed pineapple. The trunk swells at the base and has shallow roots. It generally grows in moist environments, where precipitation exceeds 75cm (30") annually.
10. The heartwood contains numerous chemical substances. Thujaplicins, natural fungicides, found in older trees, prevent the wood rotting for a century after felling. Some mature trees have hollow trunks, the result of rotting when young, before they started producing thujaplicins. Plicatic acid is an irritant and contact allergen responsible for occupational asthma in about 5% of workers exposed to the wood dust and, in USA and Canada, there's a permissible exposure limit of 2.5 mg dust/m³ in any 8hr period.
11. The species was used for a wide variety of purposes by First Nations of the Pacific Northwest, and is of great cultural importance to these peoples. The bark was used to make mats, ropes, baskets and clothing. At the right time of year, long strips of bark are easily removed from living trees. Stripping too much would kill the tree and traditionally a tree was only used once. A distinctive scar is left where the bark heals, and this is considered a cultural modification, with such trees known as 'Culturally Modified Trees' (CMT). These scars can be dated and this is providing evidence in a lawsuit being brought by the Nuchatlaht against the government of British Columbia. To prove they have continuously occupied Nootka Island since 1846, they are citing the presence of thousands of culturally modified Red Cedars, with scars dating back centuries. A verdict in the case is expected soon.
12. There's an undulating ceiling made of Canadian Western Red Cedar timber in the Senedd building (Welsh Parliament). The wood also covers the funnel, part of the ventilation system (photo right). With its natural self-preserving oil, it shouldn't need treating for at least a hundred years.



RECOMMENDED READING, VIEWING AND LISTENING *Just click on the green links*

PROPOSAL FOR A GREEN CORRIDOR IN EARLEY - discussed by **Earley Town Council** this month.

NATIONAL TREE WEEK WEBINARS FROM THE TREE COUNCIL:
DEMYSTIFYING THE TANGLED WORLD OF TREE ROOTS
TREES AND FUNGI WORKING TOGETHER

TVERC YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Recordings of all 11 sessions of the 2022 Autumn Recorders Conference - and previous conferences.

THE VETERANISATION OF YOUNG TREES - Lynn Boddy in Winter Watch episode 2 (16:50 mins into prog).

NATURE RECOVERY AT SCALE - Latest issue of Wood Wise from the Woodland Trust.

TREES AND FORESTS - The Guardian's selection of articles; including:

THE VALUE OF UK TREES (mentioned by Alison)

KENYA BANS BAOBAB TREE EXPORTS

RESIDENTS RAISE £100,000 TO SAVE GORNE WOOD IN SE LONDON

OLD KNOBBLEY.

TWISTED SHAPES OF ANCIENT TREES MAY EXPLAIN THEIR EXTREME LONGEVITY

THE SENEGAL MAN ON A MISSION TO PLANT FIVE MILLION TREES

ANCIENT PINE FORESTS IN SCOTLAND UNDER THREAT

A STROLL AROUND THE OTZARRETA MAGIC FOREST - mentioned in the ATF winter **newsletter**.

SNOWDONIA: YR ERYRI SUPERHIGHWAY TO PROTECT WILDLIFE

IS THE CLOUD DAMAGING THE PLANET? - BBC Panorama on iplayer; plus a short radio **programme** (7mins).

NEW WETLAND IN WILTSHIRE TO BE PLANTED WITH 20,000 NATIVE PLANTS

UNPOPULAR FELLING OF AN OLD COPPER BEECH TREE IN MATLOCK BATH (*ignore the video*)

DOUBT THROWN ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE WOOD WIDE WEB

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY - A new interactive map of footpaths, bridleways etc within Wokingham Borough.

TREE SPECIES SELECTION FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE - choosing the right tree for the right place.
Downloadable guide and spreadsheet plus a video presentation of the research underpinning the guide.

BEANS IN TOAST COULD REVOLUTIONISE ENGLISH BREAKFASTS - from Wokingham Today 23rd January.

A REMINDER OF LOCAL TREE WALKS: Links can be found on the [publication page](#) of our website, in the 'Local Guides and General Information' section.

EARLEY TREE WALK - most of the trees on this walk are in our database and identified as such.

WHITEKNIGHTS TREE WALK - a new link - this walk is no longer on the University website.

BEARWOOD RECREATION GROUND TREE WALK - Bearwood recreation ground is in Winnersh

SPREADSHEET DISASTERS - nothing about trees, but do listen to it (10 mins).

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

Another contribution from Sarah Swatridge:

'I recently visited the Anglo-Saxon village in [West Stow](#), Suffolk. It's a very interesting place to wander around. This reconstructed village was built using traditional skills to recreate what it may have been like, based on archaeological evidence.

Whilst there, I couldn't help but photograph the copse of trees where the pigs were kept.

I wonder which way the wind blows?'



Some sources used in this issue: all web pages accessed 25-02-2023 (unless stated otherwise). Links embedded in the text are not repeated here. Email me if you want a list of them.

p10-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) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thuja_plicata

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/western-red-cedar/>

https://www.monumentaltrees.com/en/usa/washington/graysharborcounty/2549_lakequinaultresort/4227/

<https://www.thedailyworld.com/life/the-demise-of-the-record-breaking-quinault-big-cedar/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senedd_building#/media/File:SeneddFunnel.jpg <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6178133> (photo)

<https://senedd.wales/visit/our-estate/the-senedd-a-landmark-building/>

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