

# Tree Warden & Con Vols. Newsletter

Autumn 09



**BBC**  
**breathing**  
**places**

## Tree O'Clock

**BBC Breathing Places invites you to be part of a Guinness World Record attempt and a nation-wide celebration of trees.**



As part of National Tree Week, BBC Breathing Places is inviting partners, community groups and audiences to join us in setting a new Guinness World Record for planting the most trees in one hour in multiple locations.

### **When?**

**11am – 12 noon on 5 December 2009**

### **Where?**

Anywhere in your local area that would benefit from having new trees planted – it could be a community space, a park, or even an individual's garden or land.

### **Who can join in?**

Any organisation, regardless of size, can participate. All trees planted during the hour will count towards the World Record-breaking attempt, provided the rules are followed.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Tree Wardens and community groups across the district to serve their local communities by doing one thing to help nature. Trees are of huge importance to biodiversity and investing in this tree-planting World Record attempt can make a real difference to local wildlife.

- Your parish or group can get involved in any number of ways, whether or not you have a Parish Tree Scheme project this year– here are a few suggestions:
- Carry out your Parish Tree Scheme planting at the specified time and date
- Carry out fundraising to collect money to buy trees.
- Link up with local businesses to sponsor tree-planting in your area
- Provide land for trees to be planted on.
- Gather teams of people together to take part in planting activities.



- Provide a public notary to act as a witness at a planting site to ensure that all of the trees planted count towards the World Record attempt.
- Or maybe you could do all of the above?

### How to get involved?

If you are planting some trees this autumn and would like to be part of this wonderful Guinness World Record attempt, then getting involved is easy. Go to the web page below and fill in the short online form. [bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/treeoclock/pledgeform.shtml](http://bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/treeoclock/pledgeform.shtml)

It is important to remember that in order to count towards the World Record attempt, you must plant your trees between **11am – 12 noon on Saturday 5 December 2009**.

In the lead up to the event, you will be sent some great BBC Breathing Places resources – including banners, stickers, and an Event Toolkit, which will tell you everything you need to know about how to run your event and what you need to do to make your planting count towards the World Record attempt.

Once your event has taken place, each participant will be sent a special Tree O’Clock certificate to celebrate the part that they played. If your group plants more than 200 trees, you will also receive a commemorative plaque which can be displayed at the site to mark the achievement.

Please could you also let me know if you are intending to take part.

Peter Ross: 01394 444619



## ***A tree a day keeps the doctor away!***

A recent Woodland Trust study shows trees and woods can **have** positive effects on health, climate change and the economy. 8 million UK citizens affected by lung disease, an annual £25 billion combined cost to the government and industry of the 2.5 million people currently on incapacity benefit and a child obesity rate of 27%. These are just some of the shocking statistics that the Trust wants to see reduced by increasing tree and woodland cover and to highlight how this can work has produced a document entitled [“Woods and health”](#).

The Trust believes that trees are vital to the health and well-being of people in the UK. There is a strong correlation between the quality of the natural environment where people live and their health and well-being. Increasing tree and woodland cover can be seen to reduce the impacts of poor air quality, mitigate some of the effects of a warming climate, particularly in urban areas, and increase the opportunities for people to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

It is little known that the UK is one of the least wooded countries in Europe with woodland cover only 11 per cent (only half of which is native broadleaf woodland) compared to the European average of 44 per cent. Yet the importance of trees and woods has never been more apparent – regulating climate, improving flow and quality of water, reducing air pollution, conserving soil, storing carbon and helping society adapt to climate change.

Trees and woodland are clearly coming to the fore of government thinking, as highlighted by Forestry Minister Huw Irranca-Davies MP recently announcing the Government’s Low Carbon Transition Plan, which supports a drive to create 10,000 hectares of woodland per annum for 15 years, which would lock up 50 millions tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2050.

The Woodland Trust hopes this will prove to be the beginning of a long term strategy to include trees and woodland as an integral part of government planning with regard to climate change. And with the forthcoming Copenhagen summit in December the Trust would like the document to provide a timely reminder as to the importance of trees and woods on so many levels

# Mid Suffolk Tree Wardens play key role in traditional orchards survey



Mid Suffolk Tree Warden Paul Read is co-ordinating a traditional orchards survey of the whole of the county, and fellow Tree Wardens are playing a key role by covering their own parishes.

A group of them are pictured here during an orchard surveyor training session on the Thornham estate in Thornham Magna, Suffolk. Paul, Tree Warden for Thrandeston, is also consultant to Suffolk Biodiversity

Partnership which has just started the project to map and investigate the biological diversity of traditional orchards in a county of 470 parishes. Suffolk's traditional orchards include tall standard cherry trees in parkland, ancient cobnut coppices, and many small farmhouse orchards with a rich mix of trees.

A first step in the project is to check whether anything remains of the 6,000 orchards which appeared on 2nd OS maps in the early 20th century. The trained volunteers are asked to map and photograph the orchards that still exist and record their fruit trees and wildlife.

"Without the help of Tree Wardens and their local knowledge it would be almost impossible to check so many old sites," said Paul.

Sites of particular interest will later be singled out for visits by specialist botanists and zoologists for detailed surveying of particular groups such as fungi, mosses and beetles.

Traditional orchards became a national priority habitat in 2007 because of their wildlife value and diverse crops.

"Several surveys have been set up across the UK by county biodiversity partnerships, and different methods have been used. Our project is slightly more elaborate than some of the others and we will be covering more sites because we are looking further back into the past," Paul explained.

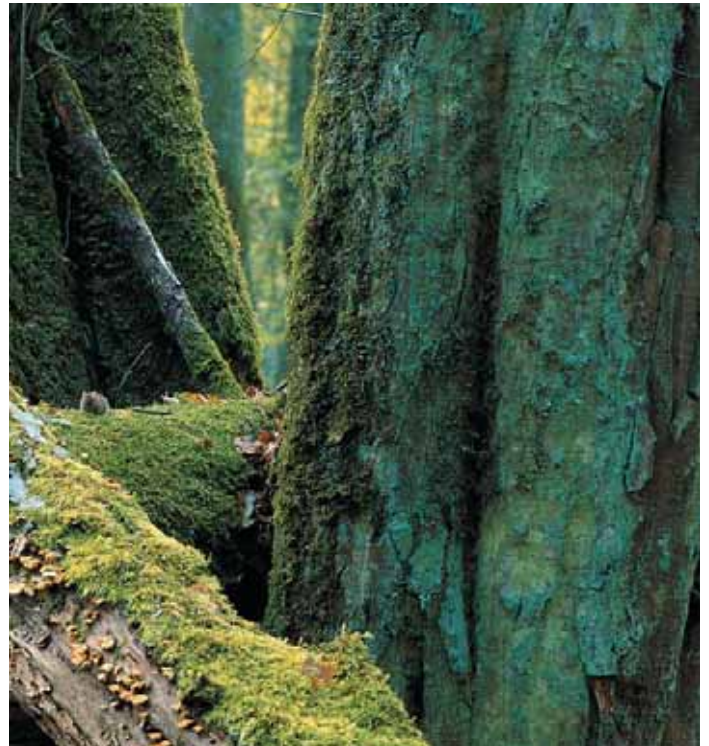
To find out more and volunteer to help contact [ReadHF@aol.com](mailto:ReadHF@aol.com)

# Life after death

**Veteran trees, standing dead or dying trees, fallen logs and branches form one of the Most important – yet often unrecognised – habitats for biodiversity.**

Up to a third of European forest species depend on veteran trees and deadwood for their survival. Deadwood is providing habitat, shelter and food source for birds, bats and other mammals and is particularly important for the less visible majority of forest dwelling species: insects, especially beetles, fungi and lichens. Deadwood and its biodiversity also play a key role for sustaining forest productivity and environmental services such as stabilising forests and storing carbon.

Despite its enormous importance, deadwood is now at a critically low level in many European countries, mainly due to inappropriate management practices in commercial forests and even in protected areas. Average forests in Europe have less than 5 per cent of the deadwood expected in natural conditions. The removal of decaying timber from the forest is one of the main threats to the survival of nearly a third of forest dwelling species and is directly connected to the long red list of endangered species. Increasing the amounts of deadwood in managed forests and allowing natural dynamics in forest protected areas would be major contributions in sustaining biodiversity.



For generations, people have looked on deadwood as something to be removed from forests, either to use as fuel, or simply as a necessary part of “correct” forest management. Dead trees are supposed to harbour disease and even veteran trees are often regarded as a sign that a forest is being poorly managed. Breaking up these myths will be essential to preserve healthy forest ecosystems and the environmental services they provide.






In international and European political processes, deadwood is increasingly being accepted as a key indicator of naturalness in forest ecosystems. Government's which have recognised the need to preserve the range of forest values and are committed to these processes can help reverse the current decline in forest biodiversity. This can be done by including deadwood in national biodiversity and forest strategies, monitoring deadwood, removing perverse subsidies that pay for its undifferentiated removal, introducing supportive legislation and raising awareness. At a local level we can all help by not being so tidy ourselves, encouraging



landowners to leave dead trees in their woodlands and hedgerows, as long as public safety isn't compromised and leaving piles of cut branches, etc as dead wood habitat piles at the end of a work party.

## Aftercare of Young Trees. Sat. Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 10 til 1:



Just a reminder to everybody that following on from last year's successful event, we are holding a practical, hands-on morning at The Grove, Felixstowe to look at pruning and other aftercare techniques of newly planted trees. If you haven't booked already and would like to come and learn something and be of great use at the same time then please give Peter a ring on 01394 444619.



## Grow Oak from acorns!



The English oak (*Quercus robur*) is a native tree of woodlands, hedgerows and parkland in many parts of Britain. It grows best on deep fertile clays and loams but will tolerate a wide range of soils. Some of the largest oaks in Britain are thought to be over 1,000 years old. The oak has always been the most widely used hardwood in Britain and its hard, durable timber has traditionally been used for buildings, ships, furniture, panelling and coffins. The English oak supports some 500 species of invertebrates, more than any other species of British tree. Oak trees are used by birds and bats as roosting and nesting sites. It is important to propagate local Suffolk oak trees to plant into the countryside and to perpetuate our local tree stock. Anne Westover here at SCDC has a few pot grown oaks to give to anyone who has a good home for them. Contact her on **01394 444420**



**Grow from acorns:** collect the acorns from the tree or as soon as possible after they drop- late September into October is the ideal time. Separate acorns from their cups and float them in a bucket of water; plant the acorns that sink. The floaters may be damaged. Sow acorns straight away, pointed end upwards, in a seedbed to a depth of 10cms, or in deep pots, covered by a thin layer of organic compost. Seedlings can be potted on the following autumn and planted out into their final home after about two/three years. Protect the acorns from predators throughout the winter. Roots will grow during the winter and the shoots will emerge in late April.



### Suffolk tree seed collection event

**Date and Time:** Tuesday 27 October, 10am - 12pm

**Organizer:** Ipswich Borough Council Ranger Service


**Location:** Christchurch Park, Ipswich, Suffolk

**Event Details:** Enjoy and autumnal stroll in Christchurch Park gathering seeds hidden in nuts, berries, haws, hips and sloes from native trees and shrubs. You will then plant them into pots and you can grow them at home.



Meeting at Reg Driver Visitor Centre. There is a fee of £2 per adult and £1 per child

**Contact:** Laura Whitfield 01473 433994 [park.rangers@ipswich.gov.uk](mailto:park.rangers@ipswich.gov.uk)





Earlier this year, the Countryside Team launched The 'Footprints' campaign. Aimed at both businesses and the wider community, 'Footprints' gives people an opportunity to help look after their local environment by giving time, money or expertise. We have had some volunteers come forward to offer their help and therefore have devised the following programme of Footprints tasks. As one of our existing volunteers, you are duly invited to join us at any of the following events. Please contact me if you need any more information. Peter Ross **01394 444619**

## **Autumn/Winter 09/10 work party programme**

### **Thursday Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. 10am til 4pm**

Heathland Scrub clearance (with bonfire)

Meet at SCDC Sutton Heath car park on the Sutton village road 1 & half miles past Sutton Hoo.

### **Wednesday Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. 10am til 4pm**

Tree thinning/coppicing adjacent to pond (with bonfire)

The Grove Wood, Felixstowe.

Meet at SCDC Eastward Ho. car park.

### **Tuesday Jan 12<sup>th</sup>. 10am til 4pm**

Scrub thinning/coppicing (with bonfire)

Melton Riverside Amenity Area near Woodbridge.

Meet in the car park.

### **Thursday Feb 11<sup>th</sup>. 10am til 4pm**

Heathland Scrub clearance (with bonfire)

Sutton Heath.

Meet at SCDC Sutton Heath car park on the road to Sutton village 1 & half miles past Sutton Hoo.

### **Wednesday Mar 10<sup>th</sup>. 10am til 4pm**

Heathland Scrub clearance (with bonfire)

Upper Hollesley Common

Meet at SCDC Upper Hollesley car park on the road to Hollesley village approx. 1 mile past Woodbridge airbase  
(Rock Barracks) entrance.

*Please wear old clothing and shoes/boots to keep you warm and dry and enough food and drink to last the day. All tools and gloves will be provided.*