



SURREY TREE WARDENS

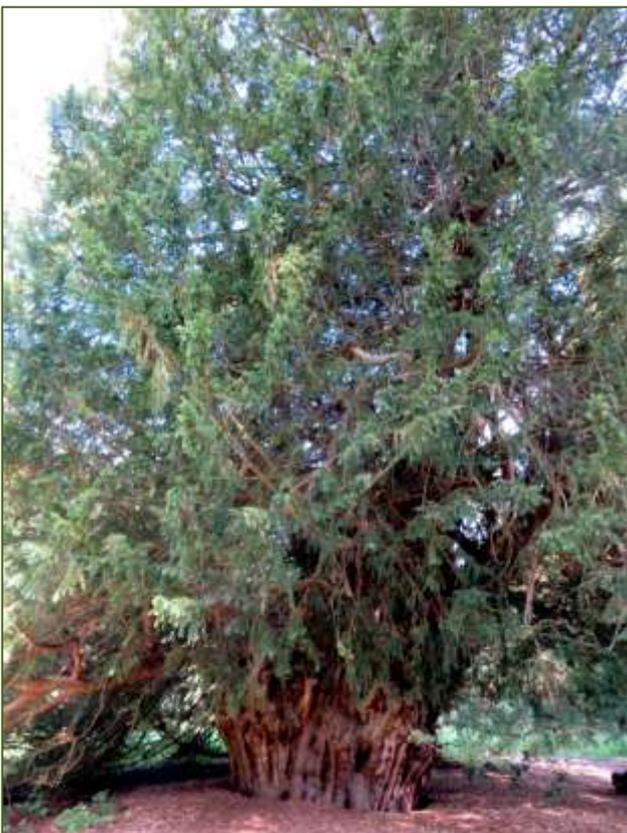
Newsletter Summer 2016

Remarkable Trees of Surrey

It's arrived. To celebrate 25 years of the Surrey Tree Wardens, a photo booklet of 25 of Surrey's most Remarkable Trees has now been published. It will be launched at the Surrey Tree Warden AGM on June 25. Who better to launch it than Ted Green of the Ancient Tree Forum, and expert and promoter of veteran trees wherever they are found. Where better to launch it than Crowhurst in East Surrey, home to the oldest tree in the county, a churchyard yew a mere 4000 years old.

The booklet began as an idea, took a practical step forward a year ago when Tree Wardens voted for their 25 favourite remarkable trees, and this year finally reached publication with the aid of a grant from Surrey County Council, through the auspices of Councillor Michael Sydney, Member for Lingfield. We are extremely grateful to him for supporting this project.

Ancient trees have stories and most of the featured trees effortlessly link the centuries. Sometimes the tales are legend – did Queen Elizabeth I really picnic under the Crouch Oak at Addlestone? Others are based firmly in fact: the Weybridge cedar really was one of the first cedars of Lebanon to be planted in Britain.



Perhaps the most remarkable tree of all, and the one that received the most votes, is the Ankerwyke Yew, pictured on the left. It is probably around 3500 yrs old, and grows – it is still growing - at Runnymede near the spot where King John and his barons sealed Magna Carta. Like most of the featured trees, it is accessible to the public as it is on National Trust land. Several of the trees are in churchyards; others, sadly, are not on public view, and would need permission to visit.

The booklet celebrates not just some notable trees, but also the stories of individual Tree Wardens and the multitude of ways they have worked to promote trees in their local communities – from street planting and bluebell walks, to tree disease surveys.

The morning will also feature a talk by ethnobotanist, Dr Rosemary Hopewell, on toxins and trees – come and find out why cherry laurel could be a danger to your health. All the details of the day can be found over the page.

The Booklet will be on sale at the AGM at the cost of £4.99, and will be available by post thereafter. As a Tree Warden in Surrey, you may want to help sell it through outlets local to you. All the money raised will go towards Tree Warden work in the county. For more information and for copies of the booklet, please contact the editor, Liz Ramsay lizramsay@aol.com

Come to the Booklet Launch. Hear more about Toxic Trees!
SATURDAY 25 JUNE at Crowhurst, near Lingfield
Details overleaf

Ash Dieback – Are There More Bettys Out There?



There's a new scheme to help find ash trees that are resistant to chalara, ash dieback. All Tree Wardens are encouraged to take part, and as "feet on the ground" they are ideally placed to do so. The idea is to survey a few chosen mature ash trees regularly every year for at least three years. A tree health picture can be built up, and somewhere, some trees are likely to be more resistant to the disease than others. The survey involves tagging the tree – a kit is provided – and submitting information on a regular basis. It is part of the Living Ash Project, www.livingashproject.org.uk, and is sponsored by the Forestry Commission, among others. More details are on the website.



Earlier this year, one mature ash tree in Norfolk was discovered to have a higher resistance to ash dieback than other trees around it. It has been named "Betty", and is now the subject of further research. There could be many more Bettys throughout the country, and Tree Wardens are surely the people to find them.

Symptoms of Ash dieback

Elm Disease: Breeding Resistant Clones

A conference has been organised this month to bring together the people leading research into disease resistant elms. Participants are coming from all over Europe. The main theme is to update and share information on breeding resistant elm clones, as well as elm conservation in general. The conference will be held in Brighton on June 9. For more information, here's the website: www.ResistantElms.co.uk

New Recruits

The Surrey Tree Warden Network is always looking for new recruits! The network, a registered charity, exists to help, advise, train and support anyone who wants to become a local tree warden in their area, or set up a local group. Training days have been run, and days out are organised, to learn more about trees and woodland, and simply to enjoy the great outdoors and the company of others who love trees.

We are also looking for a new Treasurer. Don Henderson has nobly carried on as Treasurer these past two years, though he has indicated on more than one occasion that he would like someone else to take over. It is only a few hours work a year. There must be someone out there who could take over. Contact Chris Pead: secretary@surreytreewardens.org.uk

Diary Dates

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SATURDAY 25 JUNE: SURREY TREE WARDEN NETWORK AGM

Launch of "Remarkable Trees of Surrey"

**by Councillor Michael Sydney, Surrey County Council,
and with Ted Green, Ancient Tree Forum**

ALSO "TOXIC TREES" A TALK BY DR ROSEMARY HOPEWELL

Crowhurst Village Hall, Crowhurst Lane, Nr. Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6LB

Time: 10.00 – 16.00

In the afternoon, there will be an outdoors workshop on Ancient Trees. Tea and coffee will be provided, but bring a packed lunch, and good footwear for the afternoon session.