

**Secretary's Report 2016**

Firstly, many thanks for taking part in this our thirteenth AGM, which is essential in order to maintain our charity status. With your help this will be gone through with the minimum of delay.

I would like to thank Anne Richards for her hard work in arranging this excellent venue for our meeting. So I am sure you will join with me in giving her a well-deserved round of applause.

The Tree Council has been very supportive of our activities particularly in the person of Jon Stokes who regularly attends our committee meetings, whose input is much appreciated.

My thanks to Don Henderson for his help in preparing the documents for this AGM. Also, not forgetting Sue, for so ably arranging the raffle. Thanks too, to Dave Pope for providing today's refreshments.

The principal purpose of our meeting today, namely, the launching of the Surrey Tree Wardens Network booklet – "*The Notable Trees of Surrey*", is an outcome of the previous AGM at Great Bookham last year when you were asked to select 25 of the best trees for this booklet.

Many will be surprised at how much it costs to produce such a booklet, and if it wasn't for Anne being successful, in being able to negotiate funding from Surrey County Council for this project amounting to £1500, which by the way can only be spent on this project and nothing else, It would not have been possible to produce it. Even so we were hard pressed to keep within this limit.

The object of this booklet is to help publicise the Surrey Tree Warden Network and thereby hopefully encourage many more to join our group and of course the sale of the booklets will be another means of boosting our funds.

While all of the committee have been involved in this project, we should give a special thanks to Liz Ramsay, our newsletter editor, together with John Stokes for coordinating the project and bearing the major brunt of the work. We must not forget David Pope, who, when it was found that the existing photos we had were not of a high enough resolution, he did sterling work in going round all the sites and re-photographing the remarkable trees chosen by you.

Not least, our thanks to Councillor Michael Sydney, for facilitating the grant received from Surrey County Council.

We are looking further to cutting costs by bringing the maintenance and website design in-house resulting in the cost of hosting and updating being a fraction of the current cost to us. However, arrangements are still being finalised and when the changeover occurs it will be notified to you in the newsletter which is sent out both by email and by post.

The post of Chairman and Treasurer are still vacant, but as to date no nominations have been received or suitable candidates come forward. To this end, we are extremely grateful to our long-suffering acting treasurer for maintaining the accounts in the interim.

Liz Ramsay continues to do a great job in getting the Newsletter out. In this connection a number of the emailed newsletters always come back as address unknown. It would be appreciated if you could keep our membership secretary updated with changes in your email address.

After the formal AGM proceedings have been completed we will break for lunch for one hour and during that time the raffle prizes will be allocated. If you have not purchased a raffle ticket yet, I hope you will please do so once this part of the proceedings finishes. We also have STWN badges, fridge magnets and key

rings on sale to help boost our funds, so thanking you in anticipation of your help.