



SURREY TREE WARDENS

Newsletter Spring 2013

ASH DIEBACK

Tree Wardens are at the forefront of the fight to control Ash Dieback, a grave disease that was spotted in imported nursery stock last spring. There are now 427 confirmed cases throughout the UK. 19 of those were found in nurseries; 234 in recently planted woodlands, and 174 in the wider environment in established woodlands. The disease this far is still mainly centred in East Anglia and Kent, but it has also been found west into Wales, north into Scotland, and across the sea in Northern Ireland. About 4 cases have been identified in Surrey. The disease causes leaf loss and crown dieback, and usually leads to the death of the tree. It has huge implications for the British countryside as ash is not just a woodland tree but is found everywhere, in hedges, on railway banks, in gardens, and as fine single specimens.

Tree Wardens, eyes and ears for local trees and woodland, can help by looking out for the symptoms on ash this spring and summer, and reporting sightings immediately to the Forestry Commission: www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara. The website has a pictures and a video for identifying the disease, and a Tree Alert reporting form.

The government has announced a management plan to try to control the spread of the disease. It accepts that the disease cannot be stopped. £1.5m has been set aside for research to identify trees that are resistant to the disease. Landowners will also be compensated for removing diseased trees and replacing them with other species.

HANDS ON GRAFTING

Surrey Tree Wardens enjoyed a hugely informative visit to Redleaf Nursery near Farnham in February to see at first hand the latest techniques for grafting young trees. Redleaf is a family business producing over 15,000 trees a year for the wholesale market.

*The perfect graft:
Brian Arm, the owner of Redleaf,
shows how it is done.*



DIARY DATES DIARY DATES DIARY DATES DIARY DATES

APRIL 18: 9.30 – 11.30. Fruit Hedges: Spring pruning with the Spelthorne Group. Meet at 47 Sunna Gardens, Sunbury, TW16 5EE. Contact David Woods on 01932 786806 or dj.woods@talktalk.net

MAY 19 / JUNE 16: From 10.00. Willow Days at The Ranges, Dockett Eddy Lane, Shepperton, TW17 9NT. For details speak to Sally, 07778 370571 / 01932 227679

JUNE 29: 10 – 4.00. Surrey Tree Wardens AGM. South Nutfield Village Hall. See article.

JULY 9: 18.30 – 20.30. Fruit hedges: Maximising the crop. Event in Merton.

JULY 16: 18.30 – 20.30. Fruit Hedges: Maximising the crop. Event in Spelthorne.

OCTOBER 22: Morning. Guided visit round Winkworth Arboretum for stunning autumn colour.

FRUIT HEDGES

You planted the hedge, now how do you manage it for maximum fruit? Jon Stokes of the Tree Council is giving a series of hands on demonstrations this spring, summer and autumn on how to look after Fruit Hedges.

Most of these hedges, sponsored by the Tree Council, were planted in the past two years: the idea - to entice people outside to forage and find out how to exploit the bounty of the countryside. The hedges were planted with a mix of raspberries, currants, gooseberries, along with hedgerow staples such as blackthorn, cherry plum, and hawthorn. There was shrubby elder, and trees too: apples, plums, pears, walnuts, cherries and rowans. So, how will the raspberries grow? Should the apple tree be pruned? Will the blackthorn and hawthorn be too strong?

Jon will be holding a series of pruning days in different locations through Surrey, covering winter and spring maintenance and general care, summer pruning for fruit production, and in autumn, forage days to enjoy the bounty. That is if the birds haven't got there first!

For full details of the Fruit Hedge events, check Diary Dates, the website, or contact Jon Stokes, 07850 389862. The first event is next week.

LIMES ... WITH OTHER FRUIT?

The main event of the summer will be the Surrey Tree Warden AGM. It will be held in South Nutfield on Saturday 29 June from 10.00 to 4.00. The keynote speaker will be Hugh Milner, from the National Limewood Working Group. He'll be talking about limes, that most ancient of trees which, post ice-age, dominated the landscape of southern England. Only a few fragments of lime forest now remain. Small leaved lime is found in Farningham Wood in north Kent, and Clowes Wood near Canterbury, while the large leaved lime occurs on the scarp slopes of the Sussex Downs. Hugh will talk about the natural history of the lime, why it might have declined, and why it should be valued and protected.

From limes to more fruit hedges. The afternoon will be a practical masterclass, led by Jon Stokes of the Tree Council, into how to look after a fruit hedge. One was planted at the end of 2011 in the grounds of Nutfield Church School. There will be practical tasks to do, so bring loppers, or secateurs, and gloves of course. Full details of the AGM will come later, but put the date in your diary.

Membership

The STWN has a new membership secretary, Sue Henderson. She has taken over from Jane Plant, who has done a hugely effective job for the past few years, and for which she deserves many thanks. Jane wants to concentrate her time in organising tree projects in Merton.

Your emails please

Like all small charities the Surrey Tree Warden Network never has enough funds to do all it would like to. But keeping people in touch is a priority. This costs money: the newsletter is emailed to people whose email we have. But quite a large number of copies are printed and posted, and the cost of postage is crippling. So, if you have received this by post, and if you are on email, please send us your details, so that we can save on the on the stamp bill. Contact Sue Henderson, membership@surreytreewardens.org.uk Of course if you don't have email we will continue to post it to you.

CONTACTS AND MEMBERSHIP

We want to hear from you, so please send in any information about events in your area, or what your group has been doing. There is also the STWN website: www.surreytreewardens.org.uk for latest news.

STWN Secretary: Chris Pead secretary@surreytreewardens.org.uk

Membership: Sue Henderson membership@surreytreewardens.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Liz Ramsay lizramsay@aol.com 01737 822329