

**East Suffolk Greenprint and Suffolk Coastal and Waveney  
Tree Warden Forum**  
10 May 2014



**Chair:** Andrew Cassy, BT

**Speakers and walk leads:**

- Gary Battel, Suffolk County Council's Woodland Officer;
- David Mitchell retired Landscape Office of 25 years experience and 25 Acre woodland owner;
- Jon Stokes, Director of The Tree Council;
- Matthew Greenburgh, Rendham Tree Warden, Trustee of the Tree Council and owner of a local Arboretum.

**Practical action support requested/help offered from other Tree Wardens**

- **David Briggs**, Gunton Woodland Community Project, Help in planting up woodland burial site, info@[guntonwoodland.org.uk](mailto:guntonwoodland.org.uk).  
<http://guntonwoodland.onesuffolk.net/aboutus/>
- **Tony Eden** mentioned Black Poplar (County Council's Senior Ecologist, Sue Hooton, acts as the recorder for them so needs to be contacted prior to planting (sue.hooton@suffolk.gov.uk) and Wild Service and a chance for those present to access them.

**Key points noted:**

- Tree Wardens have a vital local and national role to play in taking records of existing hedges and trees (photo's and notes) so that change can be tracked over time. Indeed it was a Norfolk Tree Warden who first sounded the alarm on as die back. **However feedback from the floor is that they need ongoing local and national support (training, information, networking and feedback on their input) and a clear steer.**

- Tree wardens also have an important role in liaising with land owners, inspiring, planting and the on going management of trees and hedgerows in their local area. **In Suffolk the Suffolk Hedgerow survey helps identify species which thrive in each patch. There is also National interest in planting species which produce a harvest (be that food, drink, fuel or material).**
- Landowners need to think about connectivity in the Landscape to protect what we all love about Suffolk. **Veteran Trees need to be part of a hedge or to have nectar bundles planted around them to support the beetles that live in them. Hedgerows need to be left wild and not flailed and boxed.**
- National and international research into Chalara (ash die back) is ongoing. There may be some quickening of dieback if Ash is young, stressed, with branches below 7 foot and in an enclosed space (e.g. within hedged area at Pound Farm Wood). Management of it depends on the land owners use of the land and trees and varies between immediate removal of infected or at risk trees and replacement with an alternative such as Hornbeam to leaving nature to take its course. **Landowners and Landscape Officers need to be aware of the risk to their tree stocks and decide on what their approach will be. Guy Ackers and the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey will provide a useful source of info on this.** Note: the Survey does not include counts of trees (bar in some parishes) as it is a record of frequency to show species richness it does show Ash is of importance in some areas in particular and may therefore leave some gaps nature is not able to fill without help (occurring in between 26% and 46% depending on landscape type). **Tree wardens can help the research by looking and recording photographing the Ash trees in their parish & send findings to the Ash tag project - details of which are on their web pages -- [www.ashtag.org](http://www.ashtag.org).**
- Two key areas of law: Statute and Common law. The concept of ownership is key (he who has the roots..) – and it is up to owners to manage their trees and hedges in accordance with the law and what their purpose is. Tree wardens can support, encourage and guide. Local Authorities will consider the importance of trees (and whether a Tree Preservation Order will be affected/is required) and hedgerows (if over 30 years old, at least 20 metres long and containing certain pant species) when planning permission is requested (challenge as most applications come in Winter when the species are not there, gaps have formed in hedge making it less that 20 meters, or coppicing means no old wood can be found). **Note: The Forestry Commission deal with all countryside trees and enquiries should go to them in the first instance.**

- For queries relating to trees contact: Nick for any tree issues in the SCDC area 01394 444241 email [nicholas.newton@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:nicholas.newton@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) and Fiona Mckeown for WDC - 01502 523075 [fiona.mckeown@waveney.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.mckeown@waveney.gov.uk)

- Good sources of information are:

Tree Council: [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

Hedgelink: <http://www.hedgelink.org.uk/>

For planting: [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/Tree-planting-guide-Dec-2012.pdf/\\$FILE/Tree-planting-guide-Dec-2012.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/Tree-planting-guide-Dec-2012.pdf/$FILE/Tree-planting-guide-Dec-2012.pdf)

About trees, history, diseases, importance: Books by Professor Oliver Rackham.

- Tree Warden Packs for new tree wardens can be obtained if you ask Debbie Wargate 01394 444747. [deborah.wargate@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.wargate@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)
- David Mitchell is running training on managing hedgerows for biodiversity. Details will be forwarded once they are available.

Attendance list

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Community</b>
1	Andrew Cassy	Boyton
2	Anne Westover	Wickham Market
3	Antony Clough	Westleton
4	Barry Shimmield	Gunton Woods
5	Christine Fisher Kay	Waldringfield Parish Council
6	D. Keating	Dennigton Tree Warden
7	David Briggs	Gunton Woods
8	David Greenacre	Greener Fram
9	David Mitchell	Retired Landscape Officer
10	Deborah Wargate	SCDC and WDC
11	Dene ?	Dennigton
12	Fiona McKeown	Arboriculture and Landscape
13	Gary Battel	SCC
14	George White	Rendlesham Tree Warden
15	Guy Ackers	SHS
16	Jake Goldsmith	Rendlesham Tree Warden
17	Jane Hawthorne	Ufford
18	Jennifer Eden	
19	Jenny Eckersley	Melton Parish Council and Melton Tree Warden
20	John Forbes	Martlesham
21	Jon Stokes	The Tree Council
22	Jonathan Valentine	Woodbridge
23	Judy Clements	Eye
24	Julian Lawrence	Reydon
25	Katie Carr Tansley	Benhall
26	Linda Wilkins	WALGA
27	Liz Mark	Bawdsey
28	Luke Bennett	East Suffolk Partnership
29	Margaret Forbes	Martlesham
30	Matthew Greenburgh	Rendham Tree Warden
31	Micheal Friend	Hollesley Parish Council
32	Mrs Steele	
33	Nicholas Newton	Arboriculture and Landscape Manager SCDC and WDC

34	Nicky Lawrence	Reydon
35	Peter Ross	SCDC
36	Rachel Smith-Lyte	Transition Woodbridge
37	Roger Steele	Tree Warden
38	Rosemary Briggs	Gunton Woods
39	Terry Denith	Wickham Market Tree Warden
40	Tony Eden	Halesworth
41	Trevor Boon	Ilkeston St Andrew

Apologies received from

Alexis Smith	WALGA
Besty Reid	WALGA
Bob Perrett	Last of the Summer Wine' Conservation Volunteers Saxmundham and Saxmundham Tree Warden
Catherine Smith	AONB
Diana Ball	SCDC
Ian Shaw	Yoxford Tree Warden
Rob Florey	Ufford