



2011 marks International Year of Forests

In celebration of this, the 5 star countryside visitor facilities at Scone Palace, in Perthshire, will be hosting the first Forest Festival within the magnificent natural amphitheatre of its 19th century Pinetum. The internationally renowned tree collection boasts many notable and veteran trees, and features avenues of exotic species and some original David Douglas introductions.

Aimed at raising awareness of the importance of forests environmentally, commercially and for leisure, the Forest Festival weekend will also see a wide range of activities including the nationally acclaimed Trevor Leat - Willow Sculptor, wildlife trails with living history characters, a Latvian chainsaw sculptor, and “*al fresco*” dining.



Climb-a-mile

In celebration of the International year of Forests 2011, the festival will feature the Arboricultural Association Scottish Branch and the Forestry Commission Scotland working together to launch a NEW charity fund raising event **Climb-a-Mile**.

*“Tree surgery and forestry are both seen as tough and dangerous jobs; but not a patch on the global peace keeping operations our armed forces continue to be engaged in. Having given so much to enable us to practice our civilian trades it seems fitting that the tree care industries, who employ many ex-armed forces personnel, should support the **Help for Heroes** organisation by raising funds to assist those injured on our behalf.”*

The Scottish Branch of the Arboricultural Association has taken on the challenge in aid of and to commemorate the brave efforts of our UK military service personnel, and bring together the efforts of the tree world industry in raising much needed funds.

What, Where, When?

- A team of professional arborists climbing a tree in relay to achieve a total height equal to or greater than a horizontal road mile (some 1600 metres). A route will be fixed ahead of the day (at 25-30m above ground level) and each climber's vertical contribution will be added to the weekend's total. Naturally climbers will be encouraged to make as many climbs as they can to contribute to the overall total, both in terms of metres climbs and more importantly funds raised. As this has never been done before whatever height we achieve will be a record, let's hope the fundraising does it justice!
- In the grounds of Scone Palace as part of a celebration of the International Year of Forestry our climb is routed in a Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) on the edge of the Pinetum.



- Taking place in the grounds of Scone Palace as part of a celebration of the International Year of Forestry on the weekend of the 18th and 19th of June 2011. We hope to start climbing at 9.00am each day with climbers returning throughout the day to add more metres as they get their breath back.

Of course not everyone is able to make a physical contribution; we are helping to raise funds for Help for Heroes and supporting the climbers in doing that is vitally important. Please visit our web site www.climbamile.com to get involved and/or to donate on-line.

We would be delighted if you would join and support us for what promises to be a very exciting new if not exhausting event in Perthshire.

Paul Hanson

Scottish Branch Chairman