



The Ancient Tree Forum and  
The Woodland Trust - working together  
to conserve the UK's ancient trees.

**No. 12      ANCIENT TRE(E-News) –the newsletter of  
April 2012      THE ANCIENT TREE FORUM**

Welcome to the latest issue of the E-newsletter of the Ancient Tree Forum

**From The Board - Events**

**ATF Summer 2012 Forum – 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> June  
Cumbria**

Two days of visits and indoor presentations including visits to Levens Hall Deer Park and Great Langdale to see ancient and recent pollards and Juniper scrub woodlands on the hillsides - we hope to circulate a full program very soon

**ATF Autumn 2012 Field Visit –Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October  
Hatfield House**

When finalised, details of events will appear on the ATF  
website events page – [www.ancient-tree-forum.org.uk](http://www.ancient-tree-forum.org.uk)  
To request a booking form, please e-mail [EventsATF@aol.com](mailto:EventsATF@aol.com)



Wrexham March 2012

## 1 Future Forestry



**Future Forestry** will look at forestry on the world stage, the challenges we are facing in the UK, the complex relationship between trees and society, the opportunities ahead, and how we balance the diverse needs of stakeholders. If you predicted the changes then come and tell us. If not then come and hear what some of the industry's leading experts – from home and abroad - have to say. We want industry professionals, like you, to join us to discuss how we can interpret society's demands on our trees and woodland into innovative ideas for today's businesses.

[www.charteredforesters.org/conference](http://www.charteredforesters.org/conference)

## 2 Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012

The long awaited TPO regulations have been issued. There is good news and bad news. First the good. There is a substantial change to the previous 'dangerous' exemption. It now reads: to the extent that such works are urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm, or to such other extent as agreed in writing by the authority prior to the works being undertaken; ...and also a notification of emergency works after they have been done. This is an amazing step forward. But sadly despite thousands of people lobbying the exception for dead trees and a new exception for the removal of dead branches from a living tree are included.

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/605/pdfs/ukxi\\_20120605\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/605/pdfs/ukxi_20120605_en.pdf)

## 3 Latest Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association Newsletter out now

The WDVTA was launched in January 2007 to help ensure that veteran and other significant trees in and around the district of Wokingham were properly identified, protected and managed - and to increase public awareness of their importance. Currently WDVTA has over 230 members. On 6 Feb 2012 they had 5650 trees on their database supported by 6082 photographs. Their largest 'find' so far is a 10.4 ancient sweet chestnut in Wargrave - read about it in their latest newsletter no 12.

[www.wdvta.org.uk](http://www.wdvta.org.uk)

## 4 Research into the Genetics of *Tilia* spp. (Lime) at Newcastle University

Kirsten Wolff is continuing with our genetic research of *Tilia*, so samples are always welcome.

[kirsten.wolff@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:kirsten.wolff@ncl.ac.uk)

## 5 Trees in Towns II - hardback out now

The Trees in Towns II report assesses the effectiveness of tree management in urban areas in England. Trees in Towns II is being increasingly referenced and referred to in the literature as a major study on urban trees and urban tree management. But many people have never actually read the full report because it hasn't been available in hard copy or to download from the internet. Finally, it's now available to read in hard copy and at a reasonable price - £13.63! It identifies changes since earlier surveys, including Trees in Towns published in 1993. The full report includes information on the quality and quantity of trees; local authority resources and practices in managing urban trees; and the recruitment and skills of local authority tree managers. The report and the wealth of data behind it will be valuable to those engaged in establishing policies and setting appropriate levels of resource to plan, develop, and manage robust urban tree populations.

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/mark-johnston/trees-in-towns-ii/paperback/product-18906201.html;jsessionid=F1F839B1727446F85BBF325D958844DA>

## 6 Ancient olives of Lebanon

The Sisters of Olive Trees of Noah is a non-profit foundation that is dedicated to the preservation of our 8000 years old ancient pre-Biblical olive grove that was known since antiquity as the source of the olive branch that Noah's dove brought back to the ark ushering the end of the deluge. They are dedicated to bringing to the market the finest and most luxurious organic olive oil products that our olive trees and village produces to this day. Their main focus is the preservation of the Miraculous trees located in the mountain village of 'Bechealeh' in Northern Lebanon. Experts believe them to be the oldest trees on earth, and possibly the oldest living biological life-form on our planet.

<http://www.protect-lebaneseheritage.com/blog/2011/11/08/the-sisters-olive-trees-of-noah-the-last-sentinels-of-the-north/>



## 7 Ancient olives of Spain

In 2009, Taula del Senia introduced a project aimed at reviving oil production from the "monumental trees," for which the Environment Ministry contributed about 1.2 million euros (1.6 million dollars). "For an olive tree to qualify as being a millennium old, it needs to have a perimeter of at least 3.5 metres at a height of 1.3 metres from the ground. Some of the trees have a perimeter of more than 10 metres. Some are believed to be more than two millennia old."

[http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/feature-spain-rescues-its-millennium-old-olive-treesby-sinikka-tarvainen-and-theo-peters-dpa\\_201134.html](http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/feature-spain-rescues-its-millennium-old-olive-treesby-sinikka-tarvainen-and-theo-peters-dpa_201134.html)

## **8 Swedish old park trees valuable for biodiversity not just history.**

A research paper by Matts Jonsell (2004) on the value of old trees & beetle diversity. This is based on a Swedish Urban Park. His paper compares an old, baroque park with an approximately 300-year-old avenue of lime (*Tilia cordata*) trees with a similar inventory of the most species-rich, old-tree site within the same region. Cultural and biological values should be combined because both may be enhanced by retaining old trees.

<http://www.treelink.org/joa/2004/jul/jonsell7-04.pdf>

## **9 Big trees good for cities**

New research from The Australian National University has revealed for the first time the role large trees play in sustaining biodiversity and bird life in urban environments. The study, led by Karen Stagoll, a PhD candidate in the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society, examined large eucalypt trees in small suburban parks across Canberra. The team's study is the first of its kind in the world and clearly shows that large trees in urban environments provide habitat resources crucial for wildlife.

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1755-](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1755-263X.2011.00216.x/abstract;jsessionid=A258536D6BCCB91ACE008806AE6F5A58.d01t02)

[263X.2011.00216.x/abstract;jsessionid=A258536D6BCCB91ACE008806AE6F5A58.d01t02](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1755-263X.2011.00216.x/abstract;jsessionid=A258536D6BCCB91ACE008806AE6F5A58.d01t02)

## **10 Flora Locale ancient tree management training day**

Good Practice in managing ancient trees Ref SE7 Wednesday 17 October Burnham Beeches, Slough

Facilitator: Ancient Tree Forum: Dr David Lonsdale, Caroline Davies and Helen Read

Ancient trees are irreplaceable parts of our living heritage and it is important that we care for existing trees and manage them to ensure they live as long as possible. This day is aimed at owners, site managers and tree workers who may be called in to advise on tree management. Burnham Beeches is at the forefront of ancient tree management and staff have an excellent track record of managing trees, especially ancient oak and, perhaps the most sensitive of ancient trees, beech. Participants will be introduced to the relationship between tree development, ageing and decay, and will be shown how to relate this to practical tree management. There will be plenty of opportunity to see work, especially retrenchment pruning that has already been successfully carried out on existing trees.

<http://www.floralocale.org/content.asp?did=24087>

## **11 Heritage Trees Wales**

Heritage Trees Wales is a new publication by author and photographer, Archie Miles. This is the latest in a series published by the Tree Council.

## **12 Phytophthora identification**

Useful information on the different species of Phytophthora is available on the FC website, including:

P. austrocedrae on native juniper at [www.forestry.gov.uk/paustrocedrae](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/paustrocedrae)

## **13 Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Action Plan**

Under considerable pressure from a consortium of tree organisations the Government recently launched this to ensure that the UK's defences against tree pests and diseases are as robust as practical.

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-8LMD8C](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-8LMD8C)

## **14 Conference Trees beyond the wood: An exploration of concepts of woods, forests and trees. 5-7 September - Sheffield.**

[www.ukeconet.co.uk/index.php/events/50-conferences/125-adv-notice-conf](http://www.ukeconet.co.uk/index.php/events/50-conferences/125-adv-notice-conf)



## 15 Shorts

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/belmont/news/x392619434/Famous-150-year-old-Winslow-Homer-copper-beech-tree-in-Belmont-cut-down#axzz1mFPOIWbS>

Great Trees of the Wirral

<http://www.gavinrymill.com/flaybrick/greattrees/map.html>

This is a link to an interesting website about pollarding in Southern Transylvania.

<http://ideas4sustainability.wordpress.com/2012/02/13/ancient-wood-pastures-from-southern-transylvan/>

Gerard has done an enormous amount to raise awareness of ancient trees and fungi in Spain. Here is another aspect of his work.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYLGnuFmwPU&feature=youtube>

Remember, the Ancient Tree Forum is also on facebook.  
[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001041494565#!/pages/Ancient-Tree-Forum/123146591083583](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001041494565#!/pages/Ancient-Tree-Forum/123146591083583)

We are up to 379 people following the Facebook page and it is right up to date with news items and images.

And don't forget to go to the ATH webpage to record recent trees that you have 'found' or to find out and visit about trees that may be nearby.

[www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk](http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk)

## Finally, links to more images of our Spring meeting at Wrexham

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.315943865137187.78429.123146591083583&type=1>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/14919622@N02/sets/72157629556381347/with/6970684219/>

This is an occasional publication disseminating information, as a Forum should. At the moment it is sent just to those who have registered their e-mail address on our website. Please forward to anyone you think might be interested and ask them to sign up.

The aim is to include information on courses, policy, consultation, research, management, training and professional development, work experience, funding and grants etc - as well as bits about ATF groups, events, topics on the Forum and maybe even communications from the ATF board!

This is not aimed to supplant the excellent "Forerunners and Hunters" bulletin Jill produces and familiar to all of you who subscribe, with its reports of many wonderful old trees. It is intended to be a way to reach particularly those professionally involved with ancient trees and those lucky enough to own them as well as enthusiasts.

Very much more information is to be found on our website at [www.ancient-tree-forum.org.uk](http://www.ancient-tree-forum.org.uk), where you can also **subscribe** and receive this automatically.

If you wish no longer to receive this newsletter, please e mail [ATFNews@aol.com](mailto:ATFNews@aol.com) with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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