

# The **ARB** Magazine

The Arboricultural Association **NEWSLETTER**

Issue 162 Autumn 2013 [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)

## Profile

### AA Conference – have you booked your place?

## And also ...

**Chalara in mature trees**

**Tree inspections: a simpler alternative**

**Mulches for disease control**

**Tree valuation: continuing the debate**



**NEWS, EVENTS, SCIENCE AND OPINION**





## At the top of the tree.

Still providing the most popular arborist saw to the industry, STIHL continues to recognise the importance of low weight, compact size and easy starting for tackling tree work.

Now with the addition of the new, smaller STIHL MS 150 T to the range, our saws will meet all your needs, from professional pruning to full dismantling, giving you the edge in your job.

**For more details visit your local STIHL Approved Dealer or [stihl.co.uk/pro](http://stihl.co.uk/pro)**



[stihl.co.uk](http://stihl.co.uk)

**NEVER STOP.**

**STIHL®**



# Contents

## The Arboricultural Association

To advance the science of arboriculture for the public benefit

A company limited by guarantee

The Malthouse, Stroud Green, Standish, Gloucestershire, GL10 3DL

Tel: +44 (0) 1242 522152 Fax: +44 (0) 1242 577766

Email: [admin@trees.org.uk](mailto:admin@trees.org.uk)

Website: [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)

p9



p11



p16



p32



p41



p46



Contributions Welcome.  
Please send editorial material to ARB Magazine Editor –  
Email: [ARBmag.editor@trees.org.uk](mailto:ARBmag.editor@trees.org.uk)  
Please send advertising material to  
ARB Magazine Adverts –  
Email: [adverts@trees.org.uk](mailto:adverts@trees.org.uk)  
Issue date: Autumn 2013  
Next issue 163: Winter 2013.  
Copy date for next issue: Friday 1 November 2013  
Please note that any opinions or views expressed in material supplied to us  
within this magazine do not necessarily represent the views of the Arboricultural  
Association.

Design & Print: [www.quorumprint.co.uk](http://www.quorumprint.co.uk)

## In This Issue

### Up Front

- 5 From the Chairman and the Chief Executive

### News & Events

- 7 2013 conference – 29 speakers, 5 themes: unbeatable value
- 9 New guidance on OPM trapping
- 9 Taskforce issues final report on combating P&D
- 10 Ash disease found in Devon
- 11 Rigging workshops – coming to a tree near you!
- 11 The Blue Book
- 12 Jack Kenyon retires
- 13 Fund4Trees now a registered charity
- 14 Last funding round for Big Tree Plant
- 15 A great season for 3ATC
- 16 ARB Show is a record breaker
- 18 14th AUS Utility Skills Challenge
- 19 Preview of top horticulture exhibition in China
- 19 A-Z of tree terms
- 20 Reps on the road

### Science & Opinion

- 23 Tree inspections: a simpler alternative
- 26 Arboriculture in Hong Kong
- 29 Tree valuation revisited
- 32 Chalara in Poland
- 34 Return of the timber wolf?
- 35 Elms, a hurricane and Brighton: Rob Greenland retires
- 37 Mulching for disease control
- 41 'Let's go to Africa and climb some trees'
- 45 The Consultant's Tool Kit
- 46 What AND Where? #1

### Nursery News

- 47 BS 8545 Young trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape
- 48 And now for something completely different: Kentucky coffee tree

### Arborists' Business

- 50 Elcoat Ltd – rubber production in Northern Sumatra
- 54 New ARB Approved Contractors
- 57 R2 update
- 58 AA Utility Arboriculture Group News

### Membership News

- 61 Reports from the Committees

### Regional Review

- 63 Visit to the Quinta Arboretum

### In Scotland

- 64 High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013
- 64 ICF seminar: Tree Health and the Landscape
- 65 Spring excursion to Balloch Country Park

### Calendar

- 66 List of events

Front page picture: Paul Smith, Manager of the ArbAC scheme, on site with members of the Acme Tree Services team during their assessment for joining the scheme. Read more on Acme and FOUR other new ArbACs on pages 54–56. (Picture: Acme Tree Services)

# Your contacts at the AA

## The Arboricultural Association

The Malthouse, Stroud Green, Standish, Gloucestershire, GL10 3DL  
Tel: +44 (0) 1242 522152 Fax: +44 (0) 1242 577766  
Email: admin@trees.org.uk Website: www.trees.org.uk

## Volunteers (members, not remunerated)

### The Directors



**Peter Holloway,  
Chairman**  
Tel: 07862 245496  
Email: Chair@trees.org.uk



**Jago Keen,  
Vice Chairman**  
Tel: 01252 850096  
Email: CharProf@trees.org.uk



**Treasurer**  
Appointment pending

**Other Directors:** Ann Currell, Mark Hemming, Jon Heuch, Paul Hornby, Jim Quaife, Keith Sacre, Martyn Thomas, Mike Volp, Peter Wharton

### The Committees



**Dr Robin Jackson  
Education & Training  
Chairman**  
Tel: 07590 047037  
Email: ChairEducation@trees.org.uk



**Peter Wharton  
Media & Communications  
Chairman**  
Tel: 01789 459458  
Email: ChairMedia@trees.org.uk



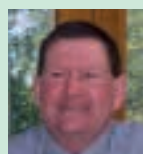
**Simon Holmes  
Professional Chairman**  
Tel: 01189 762902  
Email: ChairProf@trees.org.uk

### The UAG



**Karl Lee  
Utility Arboriculture Group  
Chairman**  
Email: ChairUAG@trees.org.uk

### The CWG



**Mick Boddy  
Consultants' Working Group  
Chairman**  
Email: ChairCWG@trees.org.uk

### The AWG



**Jaime Bray  
Arborists' Working Group  
Chairman**  
Email: ChairAWG@trees.org.uk

### Branch Secretaries

**Cornwall** Mark Nankervis 01736 755218  
**East Anglia** Matthew Searle 01787 234989  
**Irish** Felim Sheridan +353(0) 1 2742011  
**Midlands** Lesley Adams 01455 828822  
**Northern** Jo Ryan 01904 720126  
**Scottish** Adam Riedi 07866 479416  
**South Eastern** Paul Hegley 07813 146939  
**Thames and Chiltern**  
Fiona Bradshaw 01865 872945  
**Wales** Mike Higgins 07917 195031  
**Western** Appointment pending

### AA representation and liaison

**Arboriculture Liaison Group**  
Karen Martin and Simon Richmond

#### British Standards Institution

- **B/213 Trees** Simon Pryce

**European Arboricultural Council**  
Bill Matthews and Jonathan Cocking

**Forestry Commission  
Biosecurity Programme Board**  
Jon Heuch

**HSE Arboriculture and  
Forestry Advisory Group**  
Reg Harris, Karl Lee (UAG)

**HSE Small Business Trade Association  
Forum** Paul Elcoat

**Landscape Collaborative Working Group**  
Karen Martin

**Lantra SSC  
(Trees and Timber Industries Group)**  
Andy Gardner and Rhod Taylor (TTIG  
Qualifications Support Meeting, Jonathan  
Hazel)

**National Highways Sector Scheme 18**  
Simon Rotheram

**National Tree Safety Group**  
Simon Richmond and John Booth

**NPTC Landbased Advisory Committee**  
Rhod Taylor (corresponding member)

**Register of Tree Work Operatives (R2)  
Steering Group**  
Jaime Bray (Chair) and Simon Richmond

**Ride for Research**  
Mick Boddy

**Scottish Tree Health Advisory Group**  
Paul Hanson

**Society for the Environment**  
Peter Holloway

**Trees and Design Action Group**  
Jon Heuch, Karen Martin, Keith Sacre

**Tree Council Communications Group**  
John Price

## AA Staff



**Karen Martin  
Chief Executive**  
Email: karen@trees.org.uk



**Mel Sutherland  
Office Manager**  
Email: mel@trees.org.uk



**Polly Stone  
Administration Officer –  
Membership & Accreditation**  
Email: polly@trees.org.uk



**Paul Smith  
Technical Officer**  
Manager – AA ARB Approved  
Contractor Scheme  
Email: paul@trees.org.uk



**Simon Richmond  
Technical Officer**  
Manager – Training and  
Events  
Editor – *The ARB Magazine*  
Email: simon@trees.org.uk



**Kayt Bennett  
Finance Officer**  
Email: kayt@trees.org.uk



**Louisa Coley  
Finance Officer**  
Email: louisa@trees.org.uk



**Tiffany Prescott  
Administration Officer**  
Email: tiff@trees.org.uk



**Jess Palfreyman  
Administration Assistant**  
Email: jess@trees.org.uk





## From the Chairman

**I am looking forward to the Conference in September. For many years my three days at conference was my annual holiday: the thrill of learning new things, rediscovering what you already knew with a unique slant or viewpoint and talking to friends, ex-colleagues and peers that you might only ever meet at this annual event was important, although it sometimes meant I missed my children's first days at school in the autumn term.**

This year the conference is back in Exeter for three days, the only way to fit everything in, and we also have a conference dinner again which we did not in Reading in 2012 as we changed the format a little.



The Hampstead Elm from an old print. Tree lost.

The last time we had a conference dinner in Warwick in 2011 I was having one of my valued conversations with Henry Girling, and Henry, as usual, was educating me in the History of Arboriculture. Henry told me about J H Wilks. 'Wilks', as Henry called him, wrote a book about notable British trees called *Trees of the British Isles in History and Legend*, published by Frederick Muller Ltd in 1972. Wilks, the back of the book tells me, was a tree surgeon for more than 20 years and 'claims he has never fallen out of a patient'. He was a member of the RFS and 'a keen supporter of the other societies and associations who realise the importance of preserving the tree in landscape and town'. I think this book would fascinate any of us. I obtained my copy from Abebooks as it is out of print.

In the last chapter, entitled 'Curiosa', Wilks talks about exotic trees in history. He mentions a tree described as a veritable lighthouse and viewpoint – the

Hampstead Elm. In the sixteenth century this tree was fitted with a door and had a spiral staircase with 42 steps leading to a turret 34 feet (10m) in circumference. There were 20 seats for sightseers at the top. A 1653 engraving called 'The Great Hollow Elm of Hampstead' by Hollar shows the door, the turret and the tree in full leaf. Poems about this impressive tree were composed by Robert Codrington and E Coates, and Wilks speculates that printed versions were sold to visitors to the tree. The viewing platform was clearly wider than the trunk and perhaps the spiral staircase did not go all the way to the top but had a ladder arrangement to access the turret. Nevertheless, this is an impressive tree and I would love to know where it stood – some research for another day.

I will be at the conference in September. Join me, have an interesting conversation with someone and learn something new.



## From the Chief Executive

**As I write, summer is finally here, the sun is shining, temperatures are high, and in certain towns and cities there is concern about whether recently planted trees are receiving the amount of water they need. Will the work outsourced to contractors really do the job? If it's with ARB Approved Contractors then of course it will!**

### The ARB Show

The ARB Show, 14–15 June, has been and gone – it rained, again! The wind blew, the skies ranged from blue to grey but, to use a cliché, spirits were not dampened. The overriding feedback was really positive. The largest trade fair for arboriculture was a success: new products were showcased, techniques demonstrated, information provided, climbing skills displayed – along with the usual competitive element – and the opportunity to network with fellow arborists was well catered for with food, beer and live music, though sadly the keg beer ran out!! (see pages 15–18)

### The Conference

Within days of catching our breath from the ARB Show, our thoughts turned to

the Conference on 8–11 September (see pages 7–8 and [www.trees.org.uk/Amenity-Conference](http://www.trees.org.uk/Amenity-Conference)). 'Managing the Urban Forest', at Exeter University, will provide an opportunity for everyone engaged in the urban environment to learn more about the latest opinions, research and commentary from globally respected speakers. But let's not forget the opportunity to socialise and to network, which for those in our industry is invaluable.

And speaking of expertise, I must use this opportunity to recognise two key individuals in arboriculture, Jack Kenyon and Rob Greenland, both of whom retire this year. There are certain people whose contribution has been so impressive to so many of us that some tribute is required. In this issue we acknowledge their respective gifts, passion, determination

and achievements – see pages 12 and 35. No doubt fuller accolades will be made elsewhere.

### Membership and the survey

You may recollect my mentioning a membership survey some months ago. We are a membership organisation: from the recently joined student starting out on their career through to the established consultant with a lifetime's experience and knowledge, the Association seeks to support, nurture and represent the views of the growing community of arboricultural professionals. Our members are at the heart of what we do, our life blood. Understanding your needs and views is critical. To ask, listen and understand is to ensure we change to accommodate changing needs. We have outstanding



volunteers working on Committees, the Board and at Branches, but we need to reach out to everyone. This is a fast-growing and changing sector.

One of the first things I wanted to know when I joined was what attracted members to the Association – and whether member needs are changing as the economic, technical and commercial environment develops at an ever-increasing rate.

Please may I ask that you take 10 minutes, no more, to complete the online survey sent in recent weeks. Your views count!

## The website

### **Registered Consultant Scheme**

Small but incremental changes continue on the AA website, with the most recent involving developments to the Registered Consultants pages, which are now geared more to the user whether they are an existing RC, an aspiring RC or a potential customer. With applications now going through the new scheme and feedback an integral part of the process, I would urge those who are not registered to consider it: read the information on the website and talk to an RC or one of the team here at HQ.

### **Google analytics**

To ensure that the footfall on the web is tracked and changes monitored we now undertake quarterly Google analytics which capture the number of visits, the time spent per page, the source of the visitor, how they access the page (i.e. via a computer or mobile/tablet), and changes over time. Fascinating!

Over the past quarter we have seen an increase in traffic of 34%. As we continue to put effort into raising our profile and engaging more across the sector and with outside bodies, promoting our schemes and standards within the industry, this can only increase. We are tracking those changes and will include an article about this and the trends demonstrated in a future magazine. May I encourage those of you who use the web to advertise your company, services and products to analyse your own sites.

## Liaison

On page 4 you will see a list of names of those who act as representatives for the AA on a wide range of arboriculture-related matters, some on an ongoing basis, others one off or ad hoc. This work is really important in ensuring the voice of arboriculture is heard, questions raised and communication shared with our members. At this moment we have representation on TDAG, tackling OPM, national planning policy, and a

biosecurity workshop, to name but a few that are meeting in the next few weeks. The *ARB Mag*, eNews and the web are used to share what comes out of these meetings so please watch out for the latest information.

## A tree

Several weeks ago I attended a concert at a beautiful medieval house close to where I live. Looking out across the meadow in front of the house I was fascinated to see a tree broken practically in half. Its branches spread across the ground and its appearance was quite spectacular. The owners of the house were happy to share its story: they thought it was a Turkey oak, probably 300+ years old. It had 'snapped in two', to use their words, within their sight a few days previously. There had been no high winds and its collapse had been a shock. The sound had been like that of a low flying plane and the energy released was tangible. The effect on the landscape was immediate and dramatic. A sad event and, to them, totally unexpected,

although given the evident decay perhaps predictable to an arborist. A part of the history of the house and the landscape now gone.

## Keeping in touch

Sometimes, despite best efforts, it can be easy to lose sight of what we, i.e. the Association, are all about – trees: trees for the benefit of people and society. It's too easy to focus on membership, accreditation schemes, branches, publications, effective operational working, communication, standards, training, finance and events. I am therefore trying to get out and about to meet as many people in our sector and related fields as I can. And those of you who welcome me, whom I shall not embarrass by naming, may I thank you for your time and hospitality and for sharing your knowledge and experience. There is much to learn and though I am a willing student I will always be an amateur, able to function with your ongoing support. Thank you.



**This tree had 'snapped in two', to use the owners' words, within their sight a few days previously. There had been no high winds and its collapse had been a shock.**



# The AA's 47th National Amenity Arboriculture Conference

## 'Managing the Urban Forest'



### 2013 conference – 29 speakers, 5 themes: unbeatable value

**With the summer of 2013 in full swing, we are warming to the task of putting together the detailed preparations for September's annual amenity conference in Exeter.**

Ten international speakers and leading authorities from the UK arboriculture sector will be presenting an unprecedented range of topics – and no doubt stimulating some serious and contentious debates. We've said it before and we'll say it again: this year's conference is one not to be missed!

For this issue of the *ARB Magazine* we want to give you a little more insight into the main themes of the conference – there are five in all:

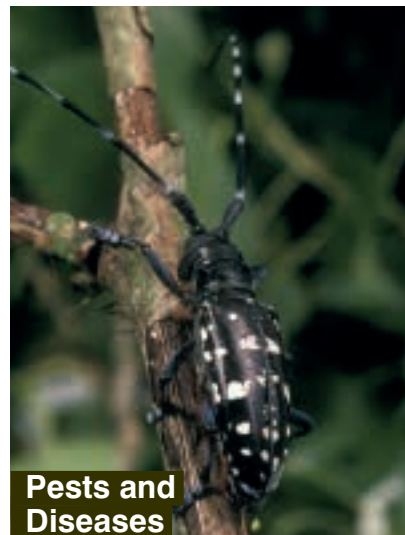
- Pests, diseases and disorders
- Green infrastructure and urban forestry
- Tree risk management
- Tree establishment
- Heritage and ancient trees

So, a broad mix of topics which will deliver something for everyone, whether you work in the public sector, academia or in a commercial operation.

Billed as the biggest theme for the conference, **Tree risk management**

takes up all of Tuesday's sessions and will be chaired by Sir Harry Studholme and Dr Dealga O'Callaghan. Assessing tree risk has developed, particularly over the last 10 to 15 years, into a discipline that requires a careful balance of legal liability, complex risk assessment techniques and duty of care, in the context of the societal, health, ecological and climatic benefits that trees provide. Both morning and afternoon sessions will review and critique a number of assessment techniques such as QTRA, THREATS and ISA's BMP, and some of the morning sessions will set these approaches into the context of legal liability and the role and responsibilities of expert witnesses – expect to hear some quite different views – and keen debate!

Monday, the first session day of the conference, will open with a welcome from the outgoing chair Peter Holloway and a keynote address from CEO of the Arboricultural Association, Karen Martin. The morning session, chaired by Dr Glynn Percival, will focus on **Pests, diseases and disorders** – a key issue across the industry and one which demands a critical understanding of threats and potential solutions as the UK tree population faces a sustained increase in the number of invasive pests and pathogens. The RHS estimates 90% of plant disease is brought into the UK through the international trade



**Pests and Diseases**



**Urban Forestry and Green Infrastructure**



**Tree Risk Management**



in plants and trees, and in these sessions particular attention will be paid to acute and chronic oak decline, *Chalara* and, amongst other wood boring beetles, the threat from Asian longhorn beetle.

**Green infrastructure and urban forestry** – the theme for Monday afternoon chaired by Dr Mark Johnston MBE – opens up the wider context of the role that trees have to play in cities. The assessment of value and how the urban forest may be governed in the future will come under scrutiny with some challenging suggestions about the role of public bodies in the governance of the urban treescape. From a more practical perspective, tree root assessment will also be explored through case studies and a challenge to some of the long-held notions on root fungi's relationship to decay.

On Wednesday morning the **Tree establishment** sessions will explore the opportunities for putting trees at the centre of the planning process. Chaired



**Tree Establishment**



**Ancient and Heritage Trees**

by Tony Kirkham, Head of the Arboretum at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, the morning presentations will also explain the emerging BS 8545 and the science behind vitality testing of nursery trees. A more global perspective will also be taken on developing our understanding of how knowledge of indigenous species across the world can inform approaches to sustainable urban treescapes in the UK.

The final sessions on Wednesday afternoon, chaired by Jon Stokes of the Tree Council, turn to **Heritage and ancient trees** and their role in tourism and urban communities. Speakers will explore

how techniques such as veteranisation and heritage tree identification and listing will contribute towards a better understanding of the role of heritage trees in the urban environment and how we might protect their status and future well being.

No doubt the conference presentations will stir up plenty of debate, discussion and perhaps a whiff of controversy, all of which can be aired at the end of each half day session during the discussion panels, at the wine receptions and at the conference dinner on Tuesday evening. Let's say it again – 2013 conference is one not to be missed!



## Conference updates and speaker listings

For all the latest news and updates on the Arb conference – and biographies of this year's speakers – check in to [www.trees.org.uk/training-events/Amenity-Conference](http://www.trees.org.uk/training-events/Amenity-Conference).

### Monday 9 September

Chair and session	Speaker
Keynote address	Karen Martin
<b>Pests, diseases and disorders</b> Chair: Dr Glynn Percival	Dr Stephen Woodward Vikki Bengtsson Dr Sandra Denham Professor Mike Raupp
<b>Green infrastructure and urban forestry</b> Chair: Dr Mark Johnston	Scott Maco Brian Crane Cecil Konijnendijk Ted Green, Sharon Hosegood Nick Grayson

### Tuesday 10 September

Keynote address	Sharon Lilly
<b>Tree risk management</b> Chair: Sir Harry Studholme	Dr David Lonsdale Jeremy Barrell Richard Stead Jim Smith
Chair: Dr Dealga O'Callaghan	Professor Mark Stewart Mike Ellison Dr Tom Smiley Julian Forbes-Laird Philip van Wassenauer

### Wednesday 11 September

Keynote address	Richard Aldridge
<b>Tree establishment</b> Chair: Tony Kirkham	Keith Sacre Dr Glynn Percival Henrik Sjoman Bjorn Embren
<b>Heritage and ancient trees</b> Chair: Jon Stokes	Donald Rodger Mark Wadey Vikki Bengtsson Chris Knapman

## New guidance on OPM trapping

**A new Practice Note from the Forestry Commission provides guidance on best practice and the effective use of pheromone traps to monitor**



An oak processionary moth. (Forestry Commission)

**oak processionary moth (OPM) populations.**

OPM is present in parts of London and Berkshire, and monitoring its distribution and spread is essential to its effective management, says the FC. Pheromone trapping of adult males is one of the most effective tools in the kit of those charged with the task. Done well, pheromone trapping can provide an end-of-season early warning of areas where larvae might be expected to be found the following spring, enabling early planning of spring and summer surveying and treatment programmes.

Entitled 'Monitoring the oak processionary moth with pheromone traps', the Practice Note was written by Dr Nigel Straw, a senior entomologist with the Forestry Commission's Forest Research agency.

It will be useful to local authority tree and woodland officers, arboriculturists and others involved with managing oak trees in OPM-affected areas. Outbreaks are located in West and South-West London;

in Bromley and Croydon in South London; and in Pangbourne in Berkshire.

The FC hopes that the smaller Pangbourne and Bromley/Croydon outbreaks can be eradicated. As reported in the last *ARB Magazine*, aerial spraying against OPM took place near Pangbourne earlier this summer. However, it has not proved possible to eradicate the larger London outbreak, first detected in oak trees in Ealing and Richmond in 2006. The objective there is to slow or prevent its spread, and keep its population as low as possible.

Dr John Morgan, Head of the Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service, said, 'The government has made combatting the threat from tree pests and diseases, including OPM, a priority, and it is essential that we tackle it with all the expertise we can muster. I therefore welcome this Practice Note as a valuable contribution to the continuing development of the skills and professionalism of the people involved.'

The Practice Note is available as a PDF to download free from the What's New area of the Forestry Commission website at [www.forestry.gov.uk/publications](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/publications).

Further information about OPM is available from [www.forestry.gov.uk/opm](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/opm).



## Taskforce issues final report on combating P&D

**The expert taskforce established by Defra's chief scientific adviser to provide advice on threats from plant pests and pathogens has issued its final report.**

The taskforce recommends that the government should:

- develop a UK Plant Health Risk Register;
- appoint a chief plant health officer to look after the Plant Health Risk Register;
- develop and implement procedures to predict, monitor, and control the spread of pests and diseases;
- review, simplify, and strengthen governance and legislation;
- improve the use of intelligence from EU/other regions and work to improve the EU regulations concerned with tree health and plant biosecurity;
- strengthen biosecurity to reduce risks

- at the border and within the UK;
- develop a modern, user-friendly system to provide quick and intelligent access to data about tree health and plant biosecurity; and
- address key skills shortages.

Environment Secretary Owen Paterson announced that work would begin right away on the recommendations around developing a plant health risk register and implementing procedures to predict, monitor, and control pests and diseases.

The rest of the recommendations will be examined and responded to later in the summer, he said.

'Everyone's got a role to play in this. I'm going to hold a summit with all the main people, groups and businesses who have an interest in our trees. We're going to work together to make sure we protect our woodlands,' said Mr Paterson.

'I am also taking action to protect our sweet chestnut trees by going for an import ban from areas where sweet chestnut blight is a problem.'

Professor Ian Boyd, Defra's Chief Scientific Adviser, said, 'It is crucial that Defra's work on tree and plant health is underpinned by the best science. That's why I brought together this group of scientists to give us their ideas and advice. Now we're going to examine their recommendations, working with key groups to work out how to improve our biosecurity.'

'We are already working on implementing a plant health risk register and are putting plans in place to predict and control the spread of tree diseases.'

The full report can be downloaded at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-health-and-plant-biosecurity-expert-taskforce-final-report](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-health-and-plant-biosecurity-expert-taskforce-final-report).

See page 21 for Jonathan Cocking's report on AA involvement in compiling the new Plant Health Risk Register.





# Ash disease found in Devon

**A case of Chalara dieback of ash has been confirmed in a woodland in Devon.**

Devon is the 17th county in Great Britain where Chalara has been discovered in the wider environment (established forests, woodland, hedgerows and similar); the others are Norfolk, Suffolk,

Essex, Cambridgeshire, Kent, Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex, Lincolnshire and Northumberland in England; Carmarthenshire in Wales; and Moray, Fife, Perth & Kinross, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders in Scotland.

The disease has now been confirmed in 525 sites across Great Britain, including

185 locations in the wider environment. Chalara was discovered in England's woodland last autumn as a result of an intensive survey of sites where ash trees are present. As the trees are now in summer leaf, it is easier to see cases of Chalara, and further sites are likely to be identified.

Martin Ward, the UK Government's Chief Plant Health Officer, said, 'We expected to see new cases as the leaves came through on ash trees. The better informed we are, the more effective we can be in our work to slow the spread and reduce the impact of this disease, and we will be investigating this new case closely.'

As part of the government's plan to manage Chalara, published in March, work is under way to identify genetic resistance in ash trees. A quarter of a million saplings have been planted in East Anglia to expose them to Chalara, and they will be monitored to see which ones show signs of resisting the disease. This work complements research being undertaken in the laboratory to isolate a Chalara-resistant genome.

In July Defra hosted a summit to discuss a collective response to the recommendations made in the report from the independent Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Expert Task Force (see page 9).

Further information and a map showing all locations with confirmed cases of Chalara are available at [www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara).



Chalara dieback in a mature ash. This picture was taken in Poland by Rob McBride. See more of his pictures of Chalara in mature trees and read his report on pages 32–33.

# Ramorum in larch in England

**Aerial surveying of high-risk areas of England has detected up to 525ha of larch woodland as possibly infected with ramorum disease, representing an increase in known infected area of up to 26%.**

There are 44,000ha of larch woodland in England, and Andrew Smith, Head of Sustainable Forest Management for Forestry Commission England, said, 'These figures are positive insofar as they do not show the level of progression being experienced in other parts of the UK, and the great majority of larch in England remains healthy.'

'They are still subject to checking from the ground, and the exact figure, based on previous years' experience, could be

as much as 30% lower than this, as other causes are confirmed for some of the symptoms seen from the air.

'However, there is no room for complacency. These data show regional variations in spread and, overall, a moderately greater degree of spread than we've found at this stage in previous years. This is not surprising given last year's exceptionally wet weather, which was conducive to spread of the disease.'

Mr Smith added that Forestry Commission England would continue with its current approach to controlling the disease. This requires the felling of infected trees, and the felling of neighbouring trees out to a radius of 100m from infected trees. Evidence shows that this is the

most effective way of reducing the risks of spreading the disease further and minimising wider environmental impacts.

Mr Smith cited the example of Devon, where, 'despite having some of the first cases four years ago, about 80% of larch trees remain healthy, which indicates that the current strategy and prompt action by the sector is helping to abate spread of the disease'.

There has been a greater increase of disease in north-west England compared to previous years, with the new findings split almost equally between north-west and south-west England.

Further information about ramorum disease, which is caused by the *Phytophthora ramorum* pathogen, including a map of confirmed cases, is available from [www.forestry.gov.uk/pramorum](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pramorum).



# Rigging workshops – coming to a tree near you!

## Wales and East Anglia workshops



**STEIN SAFETY is sponsoring Arboricultural Association managed rigging workshops across the UK to help keep you up to date with current rigging practices. These one-day events are based on information from the HSE's 2008 rigging research.**

The workshops will help you understand the importance of planning your rigging operations and include a demonstration of rigging practice.

### AA Wales Branch Rigging Workshop

**Where:** Picton Castle, near Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire

**When:** Saturday 17 August 2013

This very popular event will be presented by Kevin Moore with TreeWorks (West Wales) Ltd providing assistance for the afternoon's aerial demonstrations. With privileged use of the facilities and grounds at Picton, this is an ideal opportunity to see the latest in rigging technology and

enjoy the mature woodland garden. Picton Castle ([www.pictoncastle.co.uk/gardens](http://www.pictoncastle.co.uk/gardens)) has some of the largest and oldest trees in Pembrokeshire, many of them a must-see for anyone interested in tree 'body language'.

The cost of the day is £36 per person including VAT. Visit [www.trees.org.uk/training-events/Training/Rigging-Workshop](http://www.trees.org.uk/training-events/Training/Rigging-Workshop) to book.

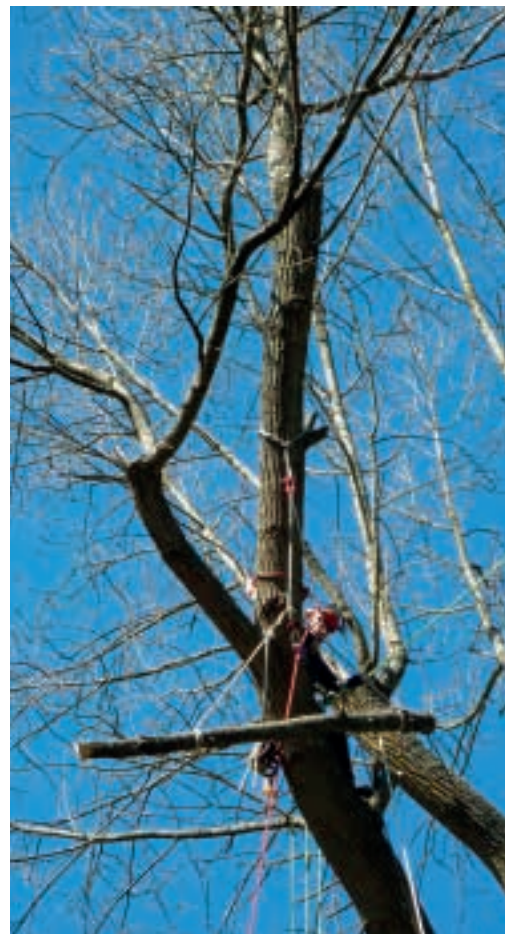
### AA East Anglian Branch Rigging Workshop

**Where:** Lodge Visitor Centre, near Santon Downham, Suffolk

**When:** Saturday 19 October 2013

The Rigging Workshop will be conducted by Reg Harris and Kev Moore in the grounds of the Forestry Commission's High Lodge Visitor Centre. They will be joined by the arborists of Urban Forestry (Bury St Edmunds) Ltd who will be responsible for the aerial element of the demonstration.

The centre is a fantastic venue and AA East Anglian Branch hopes you will bring your families to make a great day out.



**Cradling demonstration at the AA South-East Branch rigging workshop in April, sponsored by STEIN Safety. (Andy Poynter)**

They can enjoy the facilities and the best adventure playground in East Anglia. Cost for the event is £50 per person (no concessions). The entry fee includes parking (one vehicle per booking) and covers families wishing to use the onsite facilities. All enquiries to Reg Harris at [Office@urbanforestry.info](mailto:Office@urbanforestry.info).



## The Blue Book

**Peter Annett**

**The Arboricultural Association responded to the Lord Taylor review of planning guidance which published its report in December 2012.**

It was encouraging to see that *Tree preservation orders – A guide to the law and good practice* (the Blue Book) was cited as an example of guidance that might merit revision and continued publication. A target of July 2013 was offered for the publication of any planning guidance that the government might decide to retain.

As I write, July is with us and we wait with bated breath to hear the fate of the Blue Book. As set out in the Budget, the government confirmed that it would 'publish significantly reduced planning guidance, providing much needed simplicity and clarity in line with Lord Taylor's recommendations'. There were no current proposals to charge for access or notifications (e.g. re updates). What is clear is that if the Blue Book is continued, it will be probably be a different animal to the existing edition published in 2000. It might well be shorter, less anecdotal, only be available online and probably not blue any more! Worthy of note is the fact

that any guidance will only refer or link to other government departments and bodies and will not endorse specific documents. This could mean, for example, that British Standards might not be mentioned.

The ultimate decision rests with ministers in the Department for Communities and Local Government, advised by officials. (Lord Taylor has no decision-making role in this process.) It would be nice to think that a decision will be made before the summer recess on 18 July. I am not holding my breath – just practising *singin' the blues!*

The Taylor report and the government response can be found at: [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-planning-practice-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-planning-practice-guidance).





## Jack Kenyon retires

Article by Merrist Wood College

**After a fulfilling career of over 40 years, leading arboriculture figure Jack Kenyon is finally retiring. His retirement will be a severe loss to the industry, and to Merrist Wood College. However, Jack has achieved so much during his working career that he's embracing his retirement.**

Before he entered the world of trees, Jack's family's undertaking business beckoned and provided him with his first job as an embalmer's assistant. However, he decided it wasn't for him and embarked on his career in arboriculture with the London Borough of Hounslow in 1971, attending Merrist Wood College as a student from 1975–76 and then joining the staff as an arboriculture technician in 1976. Jack said, 'I loved my time as a Merrist Wood student, one of the best years of my life! I met some great people and felt very involved in the growing, dynamic arboriculture industry.'

Jack quickly progressed to lecturer status and his first course was the Ten Week Tree Surgery for Craftsmen course, which he managed to the end of his career. He built the course up from 20 students once a year to 24 students four times a year. Word quickly spread regarding the reputation of the course and in particular of Jack as a teacher. He then went on to programme

manage other courses including the Professional Diploma and Technicians Certificate, the ABC Level 4 Diploma and various bespoke practical and professional short courses.

Once Jack was in the academic environment, his abilities as a lateral thinker and his grasp of some of the more complex arguments relating to the laws of physics led to an active and pioneering role in arboriculture. This included sitting on various industry committees such as the Arboricultural Association's Education and Training Committee and the Arboriculture Safety Council (ASC), developing industry best practice and safety guidance. The ASC became part of the Forestry and Arboriculture Safety and Training Council (FASTCo), on which Jack was a representative for the Arboricultural Association. Jack also served on a FASTCo working group involved with research and development of industry practice, safe working practices through training and the production of safety guidance. Jack continued this work when FASTCo was replaced by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) Lantra. Jack served as the Arboricultural Association's representative on the HSE's AFAG working group. Other commitments included being an industry representative on the British Standards committees for rope access and PPE and

part of the UK delegation on the European (CEN) Standards Working Groups for Rope Access.

Jack holds the Royal Forestry Society's National Diploma in Arboriculture and is a Fellow of the Arboricultural Association. In 1998 the Arboricultural Association presented Jack with its Annual Award for his contribution to the arboriculture industry.

One of Jack's first main achievements was the development of the Prusik loop climbing method, which has been the standard climbing system for the past 30 years. He also developed a climbing aid to assist tree access, known as the Prusik Lift or Kenyon Ascender.

It was this initial involvement with climbing systems at the time when health and safety was developing as a major issue that led Jack, with his colleague Derek Hanson, to assess other equipment and safety clothing. They often demonstrated the dissection of chainsaw protective trousers and boots, which left a lasting impression on all those who witnessed it.

Jack is also internationally known and respected. He was involved with the International Society of Arboriculture, travelling to the USA to learn about the Certified Arborist Programme. Jack chaired a working group under the Executive of the ISA UK&I Chapter and set up the Certified Arborist Programme in the UK. He was given an honorary lifetime membership to the UK&I Chapter for this work.

During his career Jack also managed to gain a Bachelor of Education honours degree and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Post-Compulsory Education and Training.

Away from work Jack has always been a fanatical sportsman, always giving as much dedication and perfection to sport as he does to his job. He was at one time a keen motorcyclist, but now prefers to be seen on a bicycle – he cycled the 25-mile round-trip to work each day in all weathers.

It's safe to say that Jack Kenyon played a major part in the development of the arboriculture industry, especially in health and safety. He also made a difference to the lives of many hundreds, if not thousands, of arboriculture students at Merrist Wood College, all of whom had the privilege of being taught by such a legend as Jack. He is a highly respected lecturer, colleague and friend to many inside and outside of the college – he will be sorely missed but we wish him good luck for the future and spending more time with his family.



Arboriculture Lecturer Jack Kenyon.



## Fund4Trees now a registered charity



**Fund4Trees (F4T) is pleased to announce that it is now a registered charity (fund4trees.org.uk).**

It will provide an over-arching structure to deliver a range of different charitable initiatives. One example is the already established Ride for Research (see below).

F4T's charitable objectives are to:

1. Promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting sustainable treescapes.
2. Advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and

improvement of trees in the physical and natural environment.

3. Advance research for the public benefit in all aspects of trees and publish useful results.

Though a newly formed charity, F4T has held four Ride for Research events since 2011. The next is in London (start & finish at Kew Gardens) on 23 October. To register online, visit the 2013 Ride for Research page at [fund4trees.org.uk](http://fund4trees.org.uk). Charitable donations are via 'Just Giving'.

Research grants – including bursaries – will be awarded via an independent F4T Research Advisory Committee (RAC) chaired by Dr Glynn Percival of the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory. This will vet all bids\* to ensure that: (a) they are based on sound science and the F4T charitable objectives; and (b) the findings will be



**Glasgow Ride for Research, April 2013. Paul Hanson (AA Scottish Branch Chair) with the city's Lord Provost Sadie Docherty.**

appropriately disseminated to the tree care industry.

The F4T trustees are Russell Ball, Mick Boddy, Martin Gammie and Gabriel Hemery. RAC members include Jeremy Barrell, Roland Ennos, Gabriel Hemery, Jon Heuch, David Lonsdale and Les Round.

\* Closing dates for bids are 1 June and 1 November. Email grant and bursary bids to [gabriel@fund4trees.org.uk](mailto:gabriel@fund4trees.org.uk).



## Climbing to the top for charity

**Back in June 2012 tree surgeon and musician Ben Trevor climbed the tallest tree in Surrey to raise money for the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.**

Not only did he climb the tree but he also played a gig from the top using his guitar made from local timbers.

He then decided to set himself an even bigger challenge for 2013: to conquer the tallest tree in the UK, the Ardkinglas grand fir in Scotland at 212 feet high – and he made it. For Ben to be given permission to take on this challenge he needed a tree

climbing and aerial rescue certificate. So he approached Merrist Wood College who put him on the course free of charge.

After an incredible journey Ben and his team made it, not believing their eyes as they saw the tree for the first time. It took the team over 5 hours from the first climber leaving the ground to the last man touching the ground.

The climbing team included former Merrist Wood College students Andy Robertson, Mark Delia and Ben Trevor, and also Iain Campbell Duncan from Scotland.

Ben's next challenge is to climb the tallest tree in the world which is in Redwood National Park, California.



**Ben and the team after the climb. (Jane and Paul McMahon)**

## Westonbirt's new dendrologist

**A new role has been created at the Forestry Commission's National Arboretum at Westonbirt to help develop and share expert plant knowledge.**

The National Arboretum's new dendrologist, Dan Crowley, will support the mapping, archiving, identification and verification of plants in the 16,000-specimen tree collection.

Using the arboretum's network of contacts, Dan will also exchange information with other plant specialists to help raise the profile of Westonbirt's expertise.

Work will start with prioritised groups of plants that are of particular value to Westonbirt, including the National Collections and other key genera.

The arboretum hopes that the role, initially a six-month post, can be extended to become a long term addition to Westonbirt's tree team.

Dan will be recording his progress through the new Westonbirt Dendrologist's Blog. Visit: [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-trees](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-trees) to find out more.

- Dan Crowley is a regular contributor to our 'And now for something completely

different' feature and this month he looks at *Gymnocladus dioica*, see page 48.



**Dendrologist Dan Crowley at work in Westonbirt Arboretum. (iWork-Films)**



# Last funding round for Big Tree Plant

**The sixth and final round of funding for a national campaign that aims to plant 1 million trees by 2015 has opened and organisations have until 30 August 2013 to apply.**

The Big Tree Plant encourages people and communities to plant more trees in England's towns, cities and neighbourhoods. So far, the campaign has committed to plant almost 965,000 trees with around 475,000 already planted. The trees should be planted in places such as parks, streets or community spaces where local people will benefit from them. Around 70% of the trees in the programme are being planted in England's most deprived areas.

Funding is available to any community group, voluntary group or other non-profit

organisation that is keen to establish a community-led tree planting project. Groups working in deprived areas where trees would help to improve residents' quality of life are strongly encouraged to apply.

The programme has attracted a wide variety of organisations including wildlife trusts, community farms, volunteer groups and urban regeneration projects.

In order to be eligible for funding, the trees need to be planted in neighbourhoods where people live and work, the project should involve the local community, the trees must be cared for in the future and the landowner must have given permission for the planting to go ahead.

Applications should come from a group or organisation that represents the interests of the local community. The tree planting needs to be completed by the end of February 2015.

Around £4 per tree is awarded through the scheme and applicants will need to identify at least 25% of the total cost of their project from other sources. This 'match' funding can be in cash or in kind.

Help is at hand for anyone who would like to talk through their project and there is plenty advice available for anyone considering applying via the advice phone line 0800 856 7984.

More information is also available at [www.forestry.gov.uk/england-bigtreeplant](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-bigtreeplant).



**Big Tree Plant grant recipients, The Plymouth Tree Partnership, celebrate their project. (Plymouth Tree Partnership)**

# Show goes for Grown in Britain

**The Confor Woodland Show on 12 and 13 September will host events under the Grown in Britain theme.**

Grown in Britain is a campaign launched earlier this year to promote the use of home-grown timber. It is the result of work by Confor following the Independent Panel on Forestry's report which recognised the significant contribution woodlands and forests make to the UK economy, society and the environment. The report identified the need for a concerted action plan to create a more sustainable future for our woodlands and forests, and for the development of a stronger wood culture in UK society. Grown in Britain is the core of a comprehensive response to this challenge.

The Confor Woodland Show at Longleat, Wiltshire, will display the work of the Grown in Britain initiative and will give a taste of Grown in Britain week, starting 14 October 2013, which will be a major celebration of the UK's range of timber products and woodland resource.

Nick Hoare, chairman of the Confor show committee, said, 'Grown in Britain is something we can all sign up to. It is already giving home-grown timber a much higher profile, with some major construction companies participating enthusiastically. We look forward to a progress report at the show. We all look forward to welcoming exhibitors and visitors to Longleat in September.'

The Confor Woodland Show will kick off with the breakfast briefing, with an expert panel drawn from across the sector. Forestry minister David Heath has been invited to attend on the second day. Forestry Commission England is planning seminars. In addition, there will be a range of demonstrations, including horse-logging, crafts and axe-throwing.

For more information on Grown in Britain, see [www.growninbritain.org](http://www.growninbritain.org).



## Call for papers

**The call for papers has opened for *Trees, People and the Built Environment II*, offering a platform to showcase the latest research on urban trees and urban forests.**

ICF is once again hosting this international conference on urban trees research. It will return to the Midlands on 2-3 April 2014, at the University of

Birmingham, hosted by the ICF National Conference 2014.

For full details about the Call for Papers, how to enter your submission, and other information, visit: [www.charteredforesters.org/conference2014/](http://www.charteredforesters.org/conference2014/). Alternatively, contact Allison Lock by email [allison.lock@charteredforesters.org](mailto:allison.lock@charteredforesters.org) or call +44 (0) 131 240 1425.



## A great season for 3ATC

In 2012 the Arboricultural Association officially adopted the 3ATC as its UK tree climbing event. And 2013 has seen the launch of a new 3ATC website – [www.3atc.com](http://www.3atc.com) – which enables us to promote our annual schedule, link to sponsors and run an advance booking and payment system.

It is essential when planning events that we have some idea how many climbers will be attending. We need to plan for everything from entry tickets, t-shirts and goody bags to mobile toilets!

International interest is also growing in the 3ATC event with Ireland, America, New Zealand, Australia, Sweden and Japan all talking about the possibility of using the 3ATC system.

3ATC founder and UK co-ordinator Nick Pott is pleased the event has become so popular. Nick explained that 3ATC has evolved from a team event in its early days to a multi-level competition today. We can now cater for a wide range of climbers from Student/Novice to Premier experienced climbers. The scoring system and rules are pretty easy to understand and in simple terms promote best climbing practice and reward climbers who show skill and safety.

Sponsors this year included ISC WALES, GUSTHARTS, STEIN Safety and ARBJOBS. Each sponsor donates a significant fee to finance and insure each event. Karen Martin, Arb Association CEO,

would like to thank the sponsors for their support, without which these events could not be run – and special thanks go to the team of volunteers who help manage and run the 3ATC events each season.

### 3ATC UK Open winners

**Premier Category: Martin Unwin:**  
FCT\* 12.05

**Expert Category: Graham Bird:**  
FCT\* 1.44

**Novice Category: Philip Veal:**  
FCT\* 5.24

optimum Novice time 5.30

\* FCT: Final Climb Time after penalties and bonuses.



The mighty cedars at the Bathurst Estate provided a wonderful setting for the 3ATC UK Open. (Nick Beardmore)



Martin Unwin, 3ATC UK Open Premier winner, being presented with his Arbjobs-sponsored prizes by Nigel Fletcher of STEIN Safety.



This year's 3ATC UK Open attracted an impressive 48 enthusiastic entrants. (Nick Beardmore)



Sponsors Nick and Elaine Pott from Arbjobs.com with 10 students from Plumpton College who travelled up from Sussex to take part in the 3ATC UK Open at the ARB Show.





## ARB Show is a record beater

**'15 years on and the ARB Show just keeps getting bigger and better,' says Simon Richmond, AA Technical Officer and show manager, who was delighted with the significant increase in visitor numbers and a full complement of exhibitors at the Bathurst Estate on 14 and 15 June.**

'Exhibitors and visitors are what the event is all about,' says Simon – and a significant number of this year's 81 exhibitors have already confirmed that they will be returning to next year's show, no doubt encouraged by the number of visitors but also the level of interest, enquiries and sales that the show generated.'

Show sponsors STIHL GB were demonstrating their latest technology and

equipment updates, and Sally-Ann James, Product Marketing Manager, confirmed that it had been 'a great show for STIHL, the weather held off and there was a strong interest on the stand'.

As always the show had plenty of educational and informative content – Karen Martin, CEO of the Arb Association, outlined her vision for the future of the organisation, and the contractors' workshop proved popular, with presentations on pests and diseases and a story of African tree exploration.

Technical demonstrations also took place in the woodland demo areas. One of the biggest crowds gathered around the veteran beech on the showground for a talk given by Vikki Bengtsson, Helen Read and Ted Green of the Ancient Tree Forum, who described the specialist pruning techniques required for veteran trees and introduced the VETree project's range of learning resources and vocational courses.

Over 100 visitors got involved in the demonstration and competitive events that took place throughout the two days. The 3ATC UK Open attracted 48 entrants who were tested to the limit on their safety and climbing skills on the 70ft cedar at the edge of the showground (see page 15). Team and individual prizes were also awarded in the AUS Utility Skills Competition (see page 18), where entrants demonstrated their ability to carry out pruning work and tree and pole rescues with safety, speed and skill.



Perhaps the most satisfied visitor to the show was Paul Yates of Yates Tree Surgery in Worcestershire who was the lucky winner of a STIHL MS 150TC-E pruning chainsaw in the free prize draw. He said, 'Well, I couldn't be more pleased – apart from winning the prize draw I had a great day catching up with old friends and picking up useful information from the exhibitors and presentations. I'll be back next year!'







STIHL MS 150TC-E chainsaw free prize draw at the ARB Show, drawn by Arb Association CEO Karen Martin.



Paul Yates, prize draw winner.

All photographs (except prize draw pictures)  
Nick Beardmore.

## 2013 ARB Show ...the Stats


Here's a few facts and figures about the 2013 ARB Show – a great success thanks to everyone who exhibited, visited, climbed, administered, listened, learned and spent their money!



### VISITORS

**25%** INCREASE  
in VISITORS  
against  
**2012**

### EXHIBITORS

**21%**  More exhibitor  
staff than **2012**

### FULL HOUSE

**81** Exhibitor  
Stands  
=**100%**  
BOOKED

### OPINION

“ARB SHOW  
AN AMAZING SUCCESS”  
says **SIMON RICHMOND**  
TECHNICAL OFFICER at the AA

### ARB and ARS




**48 VISITORS  
TURNED AWAY**  
ON SET UP DAY...  
THEY THOUGHT  
THEY WERE AT THE  
**ANTIQUES ROADSHOW**  
BEING HELD JUST  
AROUND THE CORNER

### TGIF

**60%**  
of visitors  
Attended on  
**FRIDAY**  
AND THAT'S  
**TWICE** as many as  
last year!

### AUS UTILITY COMPETITION

**25%**  More entrants this year

### NEVER SATISFIED



“We  
could  
have done  
with a **third day**”

says **RACHEL SHAW**  
SALES MANAGER,  
Global Recycling

**2,070**  
VISITORS AT THE GATE



**20% UP**  
THERE SOMEWHERE  
ENTRANTS to the  
3ATC Climbing Competition





# 14th AUS Utility Skills Challenge



### Martyn Ashwell

**The Annual AUS Utility Skills Challenge, held at the ARB Show, is aimed at promoting safe working techniques, team building and utilising best practice.**

This year, once again, we were not disappointed as five teams from within the utility arb industry came together to compete over five skill challenges.

Skill Challenge 1 is the **Rod Skills** event which involves carrying out a series of tasks on a low voltage overhead line. Skill Challenge 2 is the **Work Climb** where points are allocated for climbing technique and completed tasks. Skill Challenge 3 is the **Aerial Rescue** against the clock to complete the rescue of a casualty. Teams are also asked a series of questions relating to first aid and rescue. Skill Challenge 4 is the **Pole-top Rescue**, again against the clock. Teams are

monitored on technique and care of the casualty; 5-second penalties are incurred for any infringements. Skill Challenge 5: the **Mystery Event**. This year teams had to answer 10 questions relating to G552 and examine three items of fall arrest equipment for potential defects.

The 2013 AUS Skills Trophy was won by Ground Control 2 who won four out of the five challenges – virtually a clean sweep.

A big thank you goes out to all the teams who took part: Ground Control 1 and 2, Chris Hoare Tree Services, Enterprise, and West Coast Network Services.

Also a big thank you to the judges and support staff who again gave brilliant service and their valuable work time: Bill, Jon, Terry, Paul, Tony, Andy, Steve, Lee and Richard.



Teams and judges.



The Pole-top Rescue.



The 2013 AUS Skills Trophy winners, Ground Control 2.



The Rod Skills challenge.

# Preview of top horticulture exhibition in China

For six months from April 2014, the Chinese city of Qingdao, famous as the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic sailing venue, will host the world's biggest international horticultural exposition ([en.qingdaoexpo2014.org](http://en.qingdaoexpo2014.org)).

By invitation from the Chinese government, Jeremy Barrell recently visited the site to review the final preparations in advance of its opening early next year.

The scale of the project is breath taking in both conception and execution. Set in a rugged mountain valley, more than 2km<sup>2</sup> of landscape profiling is creating a horticultural showcase of the best China has to offer. There are a series of Olympic-scale themed pavilions housing exhibitions exploring the history, science and culture of Chinese horticulture. These include a 2.3ha Eden-like biodome centrepiece, a 2.8ha Theme Pavilion designed to take on the appearance of a Chinese rose, and the Dreamy Science Pavilion with its sleek and contour-hugging lines intended to reflect scientific and technical and innovation.

A futuristic Horticultural Centre distributes visitors out into the wider site through its two main axes, a flower promenade and a tree-lined boulevard. These connect the exhibitions with 12 different gardens, including a Children's Dream Garden, a Tea Garden, a Blossom Garden, a Flower Garden, a Herbal Garden, a Science Garden and a Mountain Garden. In an international area, 35 countries each have a blank canvass of 1,500m<sup>2</sup> to capture the best in garden design from their own culture. The prestigious task of designing the British Garden has been taken on by Weddle Landscape Design, a landscape



Madame GAO Qun, Director of Exhibitor Invitations, shows Jeremy some of the finished landscaping, with just one of the five spectacular pavilions nearing completion in the background.

architecture and environmental planning consultancy, based in Sheffield ([www.weddles.co.uk](http://www.weddles.co.uk)).

Jeremy commented, 'Although I was in Qingdao to discuss heritage tree management with the Chinese authorities, this project was a great opportunity to witness China's ambition and vision first-hand. Many thousands of new trees up to 15m in height have transformed this hostile rugged landscape into a potential oasis of green, framing the spectacular pavilions. Some of these trees have been planted into pits dug out of solid rock, so it will be very interesting to see how well they survive and establish. There may well be lessons here that we can apply to our similarly hostile street planting sites.'

With 12 million visitors anticipated, a horizon dominated by nearly-finished tower blocks and construction cranes hints at the magnitude of the coming event. If you are short on ideas for where to go next year, then this trip of a lifetime would be a great way of combining business with pleasure and seeing first-hand what China has to offer.

# A-Z of tree terms

The newly published *A-Z of tree terms: A companion to British arboriculture* contains the definitions of over 3,000 terms in use in British arboriculture. It is written by Philip Wilson, an arboricultural consultant practising mainly in Kent and the south-east of England.

All the terms in the A-Z, with abridged definitions, can be found at [www.treeterms.co.uk](http://www.treeterms.co.uk). The preface of the book, which describes the book's background and scope, is also there.



A review of the A-Z and its associated website will appear in *Arb Magazine* in due course.

# Veteranisation goes with bang

**Veteran tree management course, Hatfield Forest, 12 November 2013**

This one-day course, which is the second in a series on the subject, is aimed at arborists, consultants, property managers and ecologists, and anyone who is interested in understanding when and where to veteranise young trees.

Attendees will be encouraged to look at trees and their natural processes, with a view to mimicking them and as a way of 'bridging the age gap' between our youngest and oldest trees.

The course is hosted by the National Trust at Hatfield Forest, one of the best sites in the UK for veteran trees, and where there are many historical examples of veteranisation.

The course is led by Vikki Bengtsson, the senior ecologist at Pro-Natura, Sweden, and also former property manager at the site.

There will be practical demonstrations of veteranisation by arborists from Urban Forestry (Bury St Edmunds) Ltd, and also a demonstration using live explosives from Brexco Ltd.

For more details and a booking form contact Nicky Daniel 01279 870678, [nicky.daniel@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:nicky.daniel@nationaltrust.org.uk).



The horizon of construction cranes and the thousands of new trees in the foreground provide a tantalising glimpse of the scale of this project.



# Reps on the road

## HSE Small Business Trade Association



Paul Elcoat

### Fee for intervention (FFI) update

At the SBTA meeting in May Jill Hawthorne of the HSE Secretariat updated us on FFI so far.

Jill informed members that the first fee for intervention bills were issued in January and that the total sum invoiced for the two months from 1 October to 30 November was £727,644.81, which arose from 1,418 FFI invoices. The total sum invoiced for the two months from December to January was £857,254.34, which arose from 1,807 FFI invoices.

The HSE will undertake a review one year into the operation of FFI and will report findings back to SBTA members at the appropriate time.

Jill explained that the disputes procedure had two levels and to date HSE had received 80 queries relating to FFI invoices, 65 of which have been resolved.

From the minutes of the meeting: *'Paul Elcoat made reference to a specific example of perceived misuse of FFI process. Paul will confirm details in writing to the Secretariat who will take it forward on his behalf. Pete Walker shared his concerns on the lack of volunteers for HSL [Health and Safety Laboratory] seeking industry research partners because of the possible impact of FFI and it was agreed that this topic would be an agenda item for October Board meeting.'*

I later confirmed the issue on behalf of an Approved Contractor and the HSE department involved were reminded about the rules surrounding the use of FFI.

### Future HSE Strategy

Kate Haire, the Head of the HSE's Growth and Business Unit, explained to the meeting that the HSE continues to work hard to simplify the regulatory framework and in communicating the changes to reflect that the protection offered by the regulations has not changed but that HSE is simplifying the message on how to comply.

Kate informed members that within the framework of HSE Strategy, individual sector strategies have been developed which guide HSE's proactive work and that the choice of intervention strategy for any sector is influenced by a combination of a number of factors such as level of risk and the industry's injury and ill-health record. It was pointed out that priorities for proactive inspections are reviewed on a regular basis and are subject to change if there is evidence of poor performance or sector-related risks. There has been a reduction in proactive inspections by around a third. Members had a discussion on inspection targeting and asked if recognition was given to trade associations when inspecting; how targeting was determined; whether injuries and ill-health had any part in targeting.

### Key points:

- HSE and industry need to prioritise and target OSH (occupational safety and health) interventions to ensure that they are as effective and as efficient as possible.
- Sector strategies provide a means of guiding this process.
- There are currently 16 prioritised sectors for intervention with four broad, high level approaches to intervention.
- These priorities are dynamic and liable to change as appropriate according to factors such as OSH performance (positive or negative), or the identification of new OSH issues through horizon scanning.
- Sectors without a specific strategy are being monitored by HSE.
- No sectors are immune from engagement, whether via inspection or other forms of intervention.
- Sector strategies are now available on HSE's website at: [www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/strategiesandplans/sector-strategies/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/strategiesandplans/sector-strategies/index.htm).

### Young workers and work experience

Work experience is sometimes seen as over-bureaucratic and burdensome, which puts off potential employers. But taking on a young person for work or work experience doesn't have to be complicated.

To tackle this HSE has revised its young people guidance to provide the necessary clarity, particularly in relation to work experience. The work experience section of the guidance is split into sections, providing clear, straightforward advice on what each of the parties involved does and doesn't have to do.

The requirements for young people are set out more simply than ever before, in plain English. The most common misperceptions are addressed and clarified. This includes risk assessment requirements, particularly for work experience, where there is confusion about when a risk assessment is required and who is responsible. If an employer already employs a young person it is likely they will not have to do anything additional.

The guidance has been developed by HSE with the support of other government departments, businesses and business representatives and education groups. It will help all those involved in employing young people, to identify what is relevant to them and steer them away from what's not.

A young person should be given the same health and safety protection as any other member of the workforce. This is the same for students on work experience. Following the guidance means those involved in employing young people for work or work experience will be doing what the law requires.

The revised guidance consists of web pages, including a section with particular focus on work experience, and a leaflet (INDG364 *Young people and work experience: A brief guide to health and safety for employers*) which can be downloaded from the web pages. FAQs add further detail, covering some of the more specific topics that might arise for young people and providing links to other existing guidance or information where it might be needed. The guidance can be found on the HSE website at: [www.hse.gov.uk/youngpeople/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/youngpeople/index.htm).

In addition to news from the SBTA, there are a few up-and-coming legal changes that you should be aware of:

**29 July 2013:** Fees for bringing employment tribunal claims introduced  
**29 July 2013:** Revised employment tribunal rules introduced  
**Summer 2013:** Pre-termination offers of settlement inadmissible in evidence in unfair dismissal claims  
**Summer 2013:** Cap on compensatory awards for unfair dismissal  
**1 September 2013:** Employee shareholder contract introduced  
**1 October 2013:** Third-party harassment provisions repealed  
**1 October 2013:** Increase in National Minimum Wage rates  
**1 October 2013:** RIDDOR regime simplified  
**Autumn 2013:** TUPE Regulations reformed  
**6 April 2014:** Introduction of Early Conciliation in employment tribunal cases  
**6 April 2014:** Questionnaire procedure in

discrimination claims abolished

2014: Establishment of a new independent occupational health assessment and advice service

2014: The right to request flexible working extended to all employees

2014: Introduction of equal pay audits

2015: Flexible parental leave and pay introduced

*Date to be confirmed:* Introduction of rapid resolution scheme for tribunal claims

*Date to be confirmed:* Employers subject to financial penalties for breach of employment rights

*Date to be confirmed:* 'Caste' added to the definition of 'race' under the Equality Act 2010

I hope this is useful and if you need any further information please do get in touch.

## Biosecurity



Jon Heuch

27 June saw a meeting to discuss the findings of four Defra-funded research projects on oak processionary moth (OPM).

These included a review of the administrative response to OPM along with methods to improve detection and control. One aspect has been to consider the reasons for the poor response to the use of pheromones. Considerable experience has been gained by those involved with OPM to date and it is disturbing that it has taken so long for government to wake up to the problem and commit significant resources, reflecting ministerial failure in both the Labour and Conservative governments. Now that appropriate resources are flowing there is some hope that OPM can be controlled. However, if there is any hope of reducing the area infected there will need to be a long term commitment to provide the resources.

11 July saw the second stakeholder workshop run by Defra on the Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Report. Two ministers attended who genuinely appeared to be interested in listening to what people had to say. The results of the meeting were not shared at the time and we await a synopsis of what action is going to be taken.

In brief the government does appear to be raising the priority it gives tree health and actions are following. Research funding is starting to pay off but the need to

communicate and disseminate results also requires commitment – one estimate for this was 25% of a research budget. Clearly there is a role for the AA in transferring research results and knowledge into useful messages for AA members!

## Plant health risk register workshop



Jonathan Cocking

At the invitation of Defra, the Arboricultural Association sent me as its representative to one of the Plant Health Risk Register workshops in their York headquarters, held over a two-week period in late June and early July. I attended as a local member with a particular interest in the subject.

These two weeks of intensive workshops aimed to develop a register of risks to plant health in the UK, as a first step to meeting one of the recommendations of the Taskforce on Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity (see page 9). The workshops covered pests of all plants, including arable crops, vegetables, potatoes, fruit, glasshouse plants, ornamental plants, nursery plants, wild plants and trees, each plant type having its own dedicated day.

Defra's core team had done a lot of preparatory work on the format and content of such a register. During the workshops we learnt how risks have been assessed, we agreed ratings for likelihood and impact of key pests, and considered how those ratings and other factors in the register might inform priorities for regulation, deregulation, contingency planning, awareness raising, surveillance and research.

Around 40 people attended the Pests of Trees day from a wide range of our sector.

During the morning session several presentations were delivered by Defra staff which illustrated the rationale behind the proposed register, how it will work, how the figures and recommendations are reached and how this might assist us in the UK to manage new pest occurrences. Further collaboration and consultation with the industry will take place before the register is completed and even then it is likely to be a 'living document', open to amendment.

Following this, Joan Webber from Forest Research delivered a useful presentation

on 'Managing Risks from New and Established Pests', which assessed the influence of importing plants and seeds from abroad and recognised the failures of the past. Joan also called for an umbrella approach, not specifically focusing on each individual pest but looking at the problem of pest management holistically.

The afternoon was dedicated to core groups each taking a list of pests and diseases and populating the risk register with data on these, drafting recommendations during the process in order to begin the register's development.

Defra's attempt to bring such a broad range of parties together to pool experience and to listen to every stakeholder's point of view, allowing each party to help shape future policy, is admirable. It would have been good if it had happened five years ago, but I am pleased to say that now we are firmly in the loop.

At the end of the fortnight the following outcomes were achieved:

- A register capturing key risks to UK crops, trees, gardens and ecosystems from plant pests and pathogens.
- An agreed evidence-based framework for decisions on short-term priorities for action.
- Experience of working with a wide group of stakeholders and experts on risk prioritisation and risk management decisions.
- A list of recommendations on how to develop those processes in a more inclusive way.
- A list of strategic suggestions for phase 2 of the risk register over the next 12 months, to address fully the recommendation of the Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Taskforce.

## European Arboricultural Council



Jonathan Cocking



Jago Keen

Two representatives of the Arboricultural Association were guests of the European Arboricultural Council (EAC) at their AGM in Krakow in late June.

The meeting, which was based in Krakow City Hall, was attended by over 60 representatives from across Europe, and



was run in parallel with a meeting of the Polish Arboricultural Association.

A major topic on this year's agenda was how a system similar to the AA Approved Contractor scheme could be introduced in Europe. The EAC has been interested in exploring this for several years and William Matthews OBE, one of the EAC founders, has tirelessly promoted the idea.

The AA's representative to the EAC, Jonathan Cocking, took the lead in presenting to the council on the ARB Approved Contractor Scheme. In addition AA Vice Chairman Jago Keen represented the views of arborists and Approved Contractors, essentially looking at why they want to be part of the scheme, together with ideas about why other EU countries might adopt a similar system.

The presentations were followed by a lively and positive debate regarding how the scheme might work in Europe. Several constraints were mentioned, including how it might operate in Germany and the Netherlands where there are already similar systems and difficulties with national versus international standards. Generally speaking, EAC members were very positive and extremely complimentary to the AA for what it has achieved. We offered the AA's further support in preparing a framework which will assist the creation of this new EAC facility.

A varied programme included a short film entitled 'TREES' set to music by Sir Andrzej Panufnik. The motif of the film was trees interacting with humans on an emotional level, its message being the battle between the technical and the emotional: think before you reach for the technical. Also, the European City of Trees Award 2013 was presented to the Mayor of Krakow on behalf of the city. It was presented by Jan Govert from Germany with a short speech by Egbert Roozen, representing the city of Amsterdam which held the award during 2012.

Within the general business programme Henry Kuppen from the Netherlands spoke on oak processionary moth and red palm weevil, with a clear message that we must be selective in treating pests to minimise environmental load. Henry also put a great deal of emphasis on managing these pests as he believes that eradication is now out of the question.

We heard about the priority of creating rooting environments to support trees in Amsterdam street regeneration programmes, and we heard how Serbia has a growing interest in arboriculture and has applied to have representation at the

EAC, an application which was eagerly approved.

Towards the end of the programme a copse of birch was planted in a public park in Krakow, each representative planting a specimen for their own country with a plaque at its base.

Whilst each nation has its own culture, its own limitations and its own opportunities, there are many shared objectives that the AA is pleased to be a part of.

## Society for the Environment



Peter Holloway

The Society for the Environment is the independent umbrella body for organisations committed to sustainability and environmental best practice. The society gained its Royal Charter in 2004.

The AA is a constituent body of SocEnv and can award Chartered Environmentalist

(CEnv) status to AA members. There are currently nearly 8000 CEnvs across a range of professions.

I have been the AA rep on the Society for the Environment Council since around 2009. The council meets about three times a year, and at a summer and winter reception organises notable speakers on environmental matters and awards honorary fellowships to appropriate people.

On 24 June 2013 SocEnv organised its Summer Council meeting and followed it with a reception at the House of Lords. Twelve honorary Fellowships were awarded and among the recipients were The Right Honourable the Lord Heseltine, Sir Tim Smit and Susan Ilman. The details of all those honoured can be found at: [www.socenv.org.uk/news/honfse-awards](http://www.socenv.org.uk/news/honfse-awards).

SocEnv recently launched a directory of Chartered Environmentalists which is accessible from its website: [www.socenv.org.uk](http://www.socenv.org.uk). If you are interested in becoming a Chartered Environmentalist, [www.socenv.org.uk/CEnv](http://www.socenv.org.uk/CEnv) has more information or visit [www.trees.org.uk/membership/Chartered-environmentalist](http://www.trees.org.uk/membership/Chartered-environmentalist). If you would like to discuss becoming a Chartered Environmentalist first, you can speak to me.



## Kinda spooky?

**Trees on Jesus Green in Cambridge have been stripped by the caterpillars of the bird cherry ermine moth (*Yponomeuta evonymella*).**

The caterpillars have shrouded the trees in fine webs. Guy Belcher, nature conservation officer at Cambridge City Council, told BBC News, 'They strip the

trees and it does look ghostly and very dramatic. However, the trees grow back and are fine. It's a wonder of nature.'

Bird cherry ermine moth infestations have also made the news in Newport (South Wales), Southend (Essex) and Richmond (London) this summer.



**The work of caterpillars of the bird cherry ermine moth on Jesus Green, Cambridge. (Reg Harris)**

## Tree inspections: a simpler alternative to the present complication and confusion



Jeremy Barrell

*In a recent paper published in the Arboricultural Journal ('Balancing tree benefits against tree security; the duty holder's dilemma' [www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03071375.2012.691674](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03071375.2012.691674)), Jeremy Barrell described a decision-making framework for duty holders who want to know how much tree management will be enough to assist them in robustly defending allegations of negligence in the event of a tree failure causing harm. In this short article, he previews the content of a follow-up paper that will deal with the anxieties facing arborists carrying out tree inspections in the day-to-day routine management of risk. In a modern world of ever-increasing complexity, Jeremy thinks there may be some value in stepping back and looking at tree risk assessment from a slightly different perspective. His legal experience suggests that a more careful consideration of how the courts analyse tree failure cases may offer the prospect of a simpler and more practical approach to tree inspections.*

### A common source of arborist anxiety

At some stage in their careers, most arborists will make decisions related to tree safety. With this comes an inevitable anxiety that, despite their best efforts to get it right, something goes wrong and harm arises to people or property. In the UK, recent research ([www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)) has revealed that an average of six people a year are killed by tree failures, but that a further 55 may suffer serious injuries. An obvious consequence is that annually about 60 individuals and their families have to deal with the trauma of death or serious injury caused by trees. Although the precise figure is unknown, my own caseload confirms that a significant

proportion of incidents progress to civil legal actions, with the sole purpose of attributing blame and securing financial redress for the harm. If the failed tree was under any sort of management programme, then first in line for that blame is the inspecting arborist, which has the obvious potential to cause anxiety. In addition to the moral burden that their decisions may have harmed other people, there is the worry of financial consequences that can run into millions and the spectre of an unfavourable decision by the courts cutting short even the most promising of careers! It is no wonder that some arborists feel concerned, and that this intense psychological pressure encourages a 'better safe than sorry' culture, contributing to unnecessary tree removals.

### UK evolution of tree risk management

The presence of trees offers many benefits, and yet they can cause significant harm if they fail. It is the role of inspecting arborists to identify potential failures in advance of them happening and specify measures to reduce the threat of harm. Too much caution results in trees being lost prematurely through removal, and their full potential to deliver benefits is compromised; too little and the potential for harm escalates towards becoming intolerable. The challenge for duty holders, and advising arborists, is to find a sensible and practical balance between maximising tree benefits whilst minimising tree threats. Quite rightly, reducing the harm that trees cause has been a primary driver of arboricultural thinking, research and practical development in recent decades.

In practical terms, technological advances in non-invasive equipment for investigating internal structural integrity have been very useful. Techniques using thermal imaging, ultrasound and microdrills add another layer of detail to supplement visual tree assessment. However, with that benefit comes extra cost because the equipment is comparatively expensive, and training and experience are essential to reliably interpret the complex information.

In tandem with these practical developments, the theory of tree risk

management has also moved on at pace, taking a lead from trends in the more industrialised sectors. This has resulted in a focus on increasingly complex ways of assessing risk, with methods emerging of a qualitative nature (using terms such as high, medium and low risk) and a quantitative nature (using numbers to quantify the risk). However, these methods originate from the uniform conditions found in factories where repetitive and identical processes prevail. Unfortunately, these do not seem to have transferred very well to the highly individual world of trees, where little is standard and extreme variation is normal. This variability makes it effectively impossible to reliably and consistently assess the level of risk using these conventional approaches, which can result in over-cautious management specifications.

Hand in hand with the availability of modern technical equipment and advanced methodologies comes pressure to use them. For most arborists, despite that pressure being subtle, it nonetheless presents a very real anxiety; if they do not use the most current, complex and expensive methods available, are they going to be vulnerable to criticism in the event of a tree failure ending up in court? Indeed, many of these options are now so complicated that they demand highly specialised skills, which realistically puts them out of reach as tools for the majority of the arborists involved in the daily routine of tree management!

### An alternative perspective

Although there can be little doubt that arboriculture is developing quickly and positively, the detail of assessing the risk from trees, set within the broader risk management context, remains an area where there may still be scope for more useful evolution. Indeed, the increasing complexity continues to pose a dilemma for many arborists, and approaching the issues from a legal perspective may provide a meaningful alternative for those who feel uncomfortable with the current situation.

When a tree fails and causes harm, it is the courts that decide where liability lies if the parties cannot settle it between themselves. It follows that what is important to the courts and how they come to decisions is likely to be of fundamental importance in the process of minimising the chances of being found liable. In the broadest sense, the courts are very interested in what is reasonable in the circumstances of each case, and this has a significant bearing on the expectations of who should have done



what. Courts are also concerned about whether the harm was foreseeable and what was done about it, especially in the context of the available resources, i.e. was the management response proportionate. In tree cases, those principles invariably direct attention to whether the tree failure was foreseeable and what was done about it. If the management response is deemed reasonable and proportionate, then the event becomes an unfortunate accident, with the converse resulting in liability being assigned primarily to the duty holder, and possibly to the advising arborist.

In contrast to the courts' focus on the foreseeability of failure, modern tree management has developed with a heavy emphasis on attempting to assess the 'level of risk' at a very early stage in the tree management process. However, that approach is fraught with difficulty because trees are so variable and the rather abstract idea of 'level of risk' is almost impossible to agree, even between trained assessors. In effect, reliably assessing the 'level of risk' is not possible, and yet there seems to be a widespread determination to continue trying to do it! What is even more confounding is that this is not a primary consideration by the courts and so, despite all the efforts to do it, it is not necessary! In short, this preoccupation seems to have distracted attention from the real issues, which are assessing the foreseeability of tree failure and what was done about the threat of harm that flows from that.

When a tree failure incident is scrutinized by lawyers at the start of legal proceedings, and finally by the courts (if the case progresses that far without settlement), whether an inspection was carried out and how it was conducted is always a focus of attention. Invariably, the inspection regime is deconstructed into its constituent parts – the frequency of inspection, the competence of the inspector and the nature of the inspection – and each is analysed in minute detail. The ultimate purpose of all this dissection is to establish whether the failure was foreseeable and whether the management response was reasonable. This approach assists the lawyers and the courts in understanding the detail of the case so that overarching legal principles can be applied to form a judgment on who was right and who was wrong.

In this broad legal context, the question of whether a failure was foreseeable, which allows a 'yes' or 'no' answer, may be more attractive to the courts than the question of what is the likelihood of failure, which can only loosely place an answer on a conceptual scale. Indeed, there is some

obvious advantage to a definitive 'yes' or 'no' answer because it allows the analysis to be compartmentalised into discrete components that can be individually processed before moving onto the next. It is only if a failure is foreseeable that a further and separate consideration of the consequences is necessary to arrive at a management action. Such a stepwise approach is easy to visualise and understand, which is a good reason why the courts may be likely to favour such an analysis. In contrast, an obvious disadvantage with the probabilistic approach is that likelihood of failure has to be combined with an assessment of the consequences to arrive at a level of risk, which then has to be translated into a management action. This convoluted sequence of considerations is difficult to separate out into meaningful and standalone individual components, and even harder to visualise. My experience is that lawyers and the courts are attracted to stepwise analyses that are easy to understand, and there may be some merit in carefully considering this type of approach.

## The sleep-tight protocol

If it is accepted that compartmentalising the tree risk assessment process will assist the courts in applying the law, then arborists who have considered what the courts are looking for, and are able to explain what they did in those terms, will obviously be well placed to refute allegations of negligence. If it is also accepted that establishing whether a failure is foreseeable is a helpful starting point, then that process needs

to be analysed and separated out into its constituent parts. In practice, those parts turn out to be a range of factors that can influence whether a failure will occur (Figure 1, panel 2). The role of the inspecting arborist is to intellectually weigh and balance each of these factors in a subjective way to arrive at a carefully considered conclusion (Figure 1, panel 3). It is understanding and adopting this process that offers up the prospect of anxiety-free decision-making for the inspecting arborist.

More specifically:

**Stage 1 – Establish the inspection frequency:** The unavoidable starting point for assessing if a failure is foreseeable is to establish the inspection period, i.e. how long it will be before the tree is inspected again. If an inspection period is not known or has not been specified, then the inspector has to allocate one and record it. This is because the assessment of foreseeability of failure is a meaningless concept if set within an open-ended timescale; all trees will fail given enough time.

**Stage 2 – Identify and list relevant factors that could contribute to a failure:** With a fixed timescale in mind, the inspector can then review all the factors that can influence whether a failure will occur. These are likely to include, but are not strictly limited to:

- Tree health
- Structural defects
- History of failure (subject tree and others nearby)
- Predisposition of the species to failure

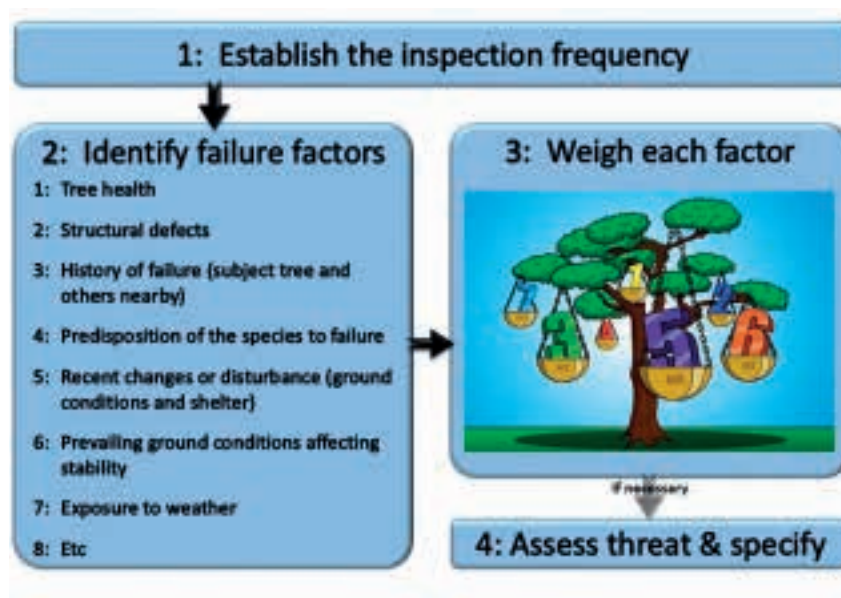


Figure 1: The sleep-tight protocol.

- Recent nearby changes or disturbance (ground conditions and shelter)
- Prevailing ground conditions affecting stability
- Exposure to weather

### **Stage 3 – Intellectually weigh and balance each factor to decide if a failure is anticipated within the inspection period:**

Inspectors should separately consider all the relevant factors that could affect stability and make a subjective assessment of how important each is. They should then assign appropriate weight to each as a means of working towards a final balancing exercise in their minds, which is the basis for deciding if a failure is foreseeable. This must be a simple 'yes' or 'no' answer; someone has to make a decision and it is the arborist who is best placed to make this judgment. There is no place here for a vague and meaningless probabilistic approach because, without reliable figures, it simply does not assist effective decision-making

### **Stage 4 – If necessary, assess the threat of harm and specify intervention works:**

If a failure is anticipated within the inspection period, then a further and separate consideration of the level of nearby occupancy, i.e. who or what could be harmed, will inform the specification for

management intervention, which marks the end of the inspection process for the arborist. If, when and how those works are carried out are then matters for the duty holder to decide on, and are likely to include a consideration of tree benefits and available resources.

The reality of much routine risk assessment is that many trees have to be processed very quickly and so a method that is fast, minimises paperwork and is easy to explain to lay people is an aspirational ideal for arborists. The sleep-tight protocol offers all of these benefits within a framework that is specifically designed to assist the courts in analysing the detail of the management process where harm arises from a tree failure. Arborists who understand this process, observe it and can explain the reasoning when challenged should sleep easier when the storms come, because the courts are unlikely to expect any more than this.

Of course, this analysis is a simplistic summary and many subtle, but relevant, variations arise in day-to-day tree management. For example, although setting the inspection period is the clear responsibility of the duty holder, in practice many duty holders do not have a fixed view and will look to the arborist for advice. This

blurring of where particular responsibilities lie causes confusion, but it happens and it has to be managed. Another matter that is not as straightforward as it seems at first glance is the issue of zoning areas and basing the inspection frequency on the size of the trees and the level of occupancy. This usually works well for small land holdings, but it can create immense logistical difficulties on a larger scale because it tends to fragment the inspection process to the extent that it becomes effectively unmanageable. Furthermore, the requirements for a first time survey are different from an established and ongoing regime, which adds another layer of complication. This particularly applies to highways where a duty holder can have thousands of miles of roads and millions of trees to check. These issues cannot be ignored, but they require more explanation than I have space for here and so I plan to discuss them in more detail in a follow-up article later this year.

- This article is adapted from an original piece published in the ISA News ([www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com)).

*Hear more about Jeremy's alternative approach to tree risk management on the second day of the AA Conference at Exeter, where he will be speaking in the morning session.*



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE AA'S TRAINING COURSES

# Professional Tree Inspection 3-Day Course

21–23 October 2013 | Ilminster, Somerset

**MEMBERS: £400\* | NON-MEMBERS: £460\***

### **Who is this 3-day course for?**

Experienced and qualified arboriculturists making the final decision on tree safety issues. This is a three-day Lantra Awards accredited training course including an assessment on the third day, with a certificate of achievement for successful candidates

*\* Course cost excludes VAT*

### **Course content includes:**

- Role of the tree inspector in risk management.
- Legal framework and reporting structures
- Tree system functions and what constitutes a safe tree
- Methodology and data collection
- Identifying mechanical and biological defects in trees and confirm by the use of textbooks where necessary.
- Identifying a range of commonly seen pests, diseases and disorders that affect tree safety

And much more ...

**For more information and booking – [www.trees.org.uk/Training](http://www.trees.org.uk/Training)**





# Arboriculture in Hong Kong

*Dr Allen Lim, Arboricultural Association professional member, and his assistant Anny Li set out their views of the challenges facing trees and arboriculturists in the teeming city of Hong Kong. The Arboricultural Association has been working with Allen and Anny Li to support and encourage engagement in professional standards, resulting in over 100 new AA members based in Hong Kong. We are also providing training in Hong Kong and there are ongoing discussions about a more formal relationship with our colleagues there.*

**In Hong Kong we have trees that have been standing for 50 or even 100 years, but there is no real public awareness of them or their importance. Trees are rarely discussed in school or talked about in public. Most people consider trees as decorative rather than functional. Arboriculture has been mentioned only in the past few years after several major tree-felling incidents where people have been killed or injured.**

There is a shortage of professional training in tree management and of skilled workers. We do have tree-related courses offered by vocational training schools and there are workers who enrol and take those

classes. However, we do not have enough qualified and experienced trainers in Hong Kong and the government is not helping enough to support such training. People who manage trees are mainly from government departments and private contractors. We do not have a single voice, are hardly pursuing any tree-management-related legislation, practice regulations, or even consensus on how to better manage the city's trees and progress the industry's development.

Arboriculture and forestry are not degree-level subjects in Hong Kong. Relevant courses are for locals who want to get into the industry but do not have a university degree, or for school leavers

who simply need to get a job. Trainers are not arboriculture specialists. Most of them are not from a science background nor experienced in the local horticulture industry. Occasionally training events are organised by the government. They invite professional overseas arboriculturists and trainers to offer tree inspection training for local workers, but only of very limited quota.

Is the government supportive of local companies in providing training? Not quite. A local tree management company is pioneering an arboriculture academy to collaborate with an RTO (recognised training organisation) overseas, in an effort to offer diploma programmes for locals. In the process of seeking programme accreditation, the company was told by the local education development bureau that 'arboriculture is not yet a recognised subject that we would grant any company offering it a "school" status. We would not recognise a "school" for training people to go up the trees and do their work.' This explains quite well the government's perception of the industry.

Within the government there is no central body to govern tree management. The Tree Management Office (TMO) was set up in 2008 after a fatal accident involving a falling tree that killed a young woman. In the response to the public's concerns regarding tree risks, the TMO was established. It was little more than a gesture to keep the public quiet. Who carries out the management, how management is done and what the regulations etc. are remain big questions.



Bad pruning.





There are published guidelines. However, TMO is not a statutory body to enforce any legislation (and there are no tree-management-related ordinances in Hong Kong!) or to impose penalties for any malpractice to trees.

Currently, eight government departments take care of trees. They have different management standards and procedures in their tree management strategies. Most arboricultural work within each government department is contracted out. Private contractors' practices vary even more.

The consequence is the ill-fate of trees. Here are a few examples:

You see a lot of unhappy trees in Hong Kong. The trees express their problems, but we are not trained to interpret their language.

Industry representation is fragmented, or non-existent. We have the ISA China/Hong Kong as the associated organisation of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Anyone can join the membership for free. The professional status of an association can hardly be recognised when there are no requirements for membership. How can members contribute to the industry through the association? Members' duties and responsibilities are not defined.

When we look at neighbouring countries, such as Singapore, we are worried. The historical and cultural contexts are different, but Hong Kong and Singapore are both small cities striving for economic growth. However, the approach to balancing development and environment is different in each city. The Singaporean government was determined to transform the country into a Garden City. Not only did they invest money in green infrastructure, after years of development since the 1960s, they now have the National Parks Board as a centralised body to coordinate government departments, parks, nature reserves and the community to ensure modern city living goes hand-in-hand

**Not enough space for big trees.**







**Badly designed tree pits filled with very compacted soil and concrete, with poor maintenance.**

with calming greenery. In Hong Kong, most people would agree we have compromised our environment for the economy.

There is definitely a lot we need to do, to change, and to think about for the better development of the arboriculture industry in Hong Kong. The Financial Secretary has announced in his budget speech this year that the government has allocated over HK\$5 billion for environmental pursuits. We truly hope it is not a money game but that the government will take the initiative to liaise with industry efforts for trees and the environment, which are genuine assets for Hong Kong.

*This article was researched and written by Anny Li. Photos by Allen Shin and Anny Li.*



**Bad installation of tree supports.**



# Tree valuation revisited

Julian Morris

**Roy Goodwin's recent article 'Tree Valuation – some thoughts' (*The ARB Magazine* 160, spring 2013, 28) largely summarised the view I have held for some time that the subject of tree valuation currently stands in an unsatisfactory state.**

Each competing (or should that be complementary?) system has its proponents and detractors, just as it has strengths and weaknesses, and it is probably fair to say that if any one system had managed to overcome its weaknesses it would by now prevail and have reached wide acceptance and use within arboriculture. The ultimate challenge, as I and others see it, is to go beyond that and find acceptance with accountants, insurers, planners and property valuers.

Several years ago I completed a move to arboriculture; for the preceding 20 years I had been a chartered surveyor and valuer. When the subject of tree valuation came up in my arb studies, I felt – and still do – that some of the existing systems are scarcely valuations at all and certainly would not stand up to some of the basic tests that accountants, property valuers and public/corporate clients would subject them to before accepting them as objective measures of value.

Knowing as I do both arboriculturists and valuers, I would generalise by saying that the former understand little about valuation principles and the latter understand even less about trees. Yet tree valuation and property valuation share many principles and I believe they could both be done from a common perspective and to a common standard, albeit one which recognises that trees are a very particular type of property. We need to make these links and apply a valuation standard or to stop calling tree valuations 'valuations' outside the tree world.

## What are trees?

In the legal sense, trees are heritable property, following the longstanding principle of '*quicquid plantatur est, solo cedit*' (that which grows on the land, goes with the land). It matters not that

trees can be moved, however cheaply or expensively, for buildings can also be moved (expensively), yet they are undoubtedly heritable and go with the land. When buildings are demolished or collapse they are rubble. When trees are cut down or fall over they are timber. The principle is the same.

## What is being valued?

To date I have never seen it stated in a tree valuation that what is being valued is not the tree but the land on which it stands and an assumption that the tree will remain undisturbed there and in exclusive occupation of the land. What then is a tree valuation if it is not a property valuation, albeit under a particular set of assumptions? Perhaps the most fundamental assumption to be made and stated in a valuation report is the amount of land that the tree (including and especially its roots) is to be allowed to continue to occupy.

## What value would a tree have without land?

It has famously been said that there are only three things that affect the value of property: location, location and location. Yet this is sorely passed over in the current tree valuation methods. One might interject that a tree can be bought for a fixed price and planted in any suitable position: what difference does location make? But the same can be said of buildings – a house built in an exclusive locale for £250,000 might immediately be worth £1m; exactly the same building could be put up at the same cost in a poor location and be worth only £250,000. Broadly speaking, we can conclude that the house plots have contributed £750,000 and £0 respectively. The same rationale can be applied to trees.

The property valuer's instinct would be that the land's role is as accommodation for the building (or tree). Where his instinct might fail him in valuing amenity trees is in considering the extent to which the land enhances the asset over time. It is only with space to grow, gather light, water and

nutrients and take support that the tree can continue to live and to increase in size. The nutrients come from the land and all the other factors come from the exclusive occupation of the land.

## And for whom?

It must be said that in property valuation what is being valued is not the property but the legal right in the property (to occupy it, to sell it and keep the proceeds, to rent it out and keep the rent etc.). To arrive at a valuation, the rent or annual value of occupation can be capitalised, or the likely sale value can be estimated. However, in the end it is a legal interest that is valued not a property. Where there are lots of transactions of similar properties among lots of sellers and buyers (as in the housing market) the properties are akin to commodities and in everyday parlance have a value. Conversely, this cannot be said of established amenity tree land.

In the meantime, the amenity benefit of trees is frequently and effortlessly enjoyed for free by others, simply because trees can be seen from afar and do not recognise property boundaries or ownerships. It is the single biggest paradox, to my mind, that the amenity tree valuer is expected to value these benefits, often without even deduction or apportionment of the owner's value. I will allude to this later.

## What is a valuer, and what is he doing?

The valuer's role is to imitate the market, never to invent one, nor to rely on calculations that are beyond the abilities and practices of the sellers and buyers that his valuation imitates. He must be satisfied as to the quantities of buyers and sellers in the market (creating the supply and demand and relative scarcity) and the quantum of completed recent transactions for similar properties ('comparable evidence') so that he can apply all this market information and evidence to the property interest being valued. Professional judgement, rarely more than extrapolations or interpolations, can be used to fill in the gaps in market evidence. Qualitative judgements must be a reflection of the marketplace, and subjectivity must be kept to a minimum, if not eliminated. Fundamentally, the basic principles of the open market (namely buyer and seller acting prudently, knowledgeably and willingly and without special interest, after adequate marketing and negotiation) must be assumed and used in the valuation. This brings consistent definition to valuations, allowing



valuations by different valuers in different locations to be compared with each other. Where there is no market or the parties are constrained in some way, the valuation stops being a valuation and becomes an estimate of worth. Calling these 'valuations' is inappropriate.

## The imperfections of the market

And here we come across a major difficulty for the tree valuer. Unlike similar houses in similar streets, amenity trees (and of course the land on which they stand) are very rarely sold, and even more rarely (possibly never) on the open market, resulting in an absence of comparable evidence. Almost invariably amenity trees and their land are sold along with a larger property, making analysis of the tree component of the price almost impossible. In my experience the top bidder for a house might immediately have mature and shapely trees cut down on the day they move in, or embark on intensive amenity tree planting. How much of the price did they really attribute to the presence or absence of trees?

Presented with a lack of reliable and comparable evidence, the valuer's training is to fall back on a cost-based method, one that will be not unfamiliar to tree valuers. The underlying principle deserves to be restated here. If someone willingly builds a property or plants a tree at a particular cost, it can be assumed that it is worth at least that much to him. The principle allows cost to become a proxy for value. Initially the equation is sound. The market for the supply and planting of trees (and the demand for these) has at least been tested.

After the passage of time, though, the assumption may lose validity. Firstly the owner may change his tastes or needs, or may not even be the original owner. Secondly the asset will have changed in nature and so in value (generally a building may have deteriorated or a tree increased in size). Adjustments to the equation are needed. For the corporate owner, it may suffice to have a valuer revalue the asset from time to time for his balance sheet, by applying depreciation to the estimated cost of a modern replacement. Thus over a predetermined number of years the original cost will be written off in annual chunks in a way that should mirror the way that the asset's value is used up by the passage of time. For a building, components and finishes and the whole fabric may deteriorate, making repairs more expensive and occupation less beneficial. If the asset increasingly no longer meets the occupier's needs,

its value can be downgraded by a factor known as obsolescence. These principles are known collectively as depreciation, already the basis of at least one tree valuation method.

Would it were this simple for the tree and for its valuer! The lifespans of some tree species may make a mockery of objective depreciation. More significantly, the tree arguably gets more valuable all the time simply by growing bigger, like a building that is gradually expanding. Then it might go into rapid decline, potentially leaving the owner with a legal and financial liability. Modern equivalent replacement for an established mature tree may be impossible to price and almost impossible to achieve. Simple extrapolation of purchase and planting costs is not enough; they ignore the reality that a tree in a container eventually has no valuable prospects whereas an established one (with the benefit of the land) does.

As a final comment on depreciated replacement cost valuations, I would add that the land value is not consumed by depreciation or obsolescence and, but for demolition and other sundry costs at the end of a building's useful life, the land can be used for another purpose. The same can be said of trees, the analogy including that trees have 'demolition costs' just like buildings. And if the wood is more valuable than the felling costs the end costs will be a positive value. With this in mind, and particularly if land value is to be reflected, it is hard to comprehend zero valuations.

## The time value of money

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. Likewise for the property landlord the value he attaches now to the rent he hopes to receive from his steady tenant next year is more valuable than the rent from the year after that, and more valuable than a higher rent from an unreliable tenant. He may also take a view on whether the area is improving or declining and discount the value of future income accordingly. Certainty and imminence are at a premium, declining with time and prospects. A flipside is true for the market and for the valuer. Capital costs can be 'decapitalised' using an appropriate borrowing rate to calculate an annual equivalent. Valuers have to juggle these factors, and are armed with a set of simple calculations (or valuation tables that have the calculations already done for them). However the valuer produces the number, he must have a good understanding of the principles behind the calculations and must choose appropriate inputs

(particularly the discount rate) based on comparable transactions. Beyond that, the mathematics is a formality.

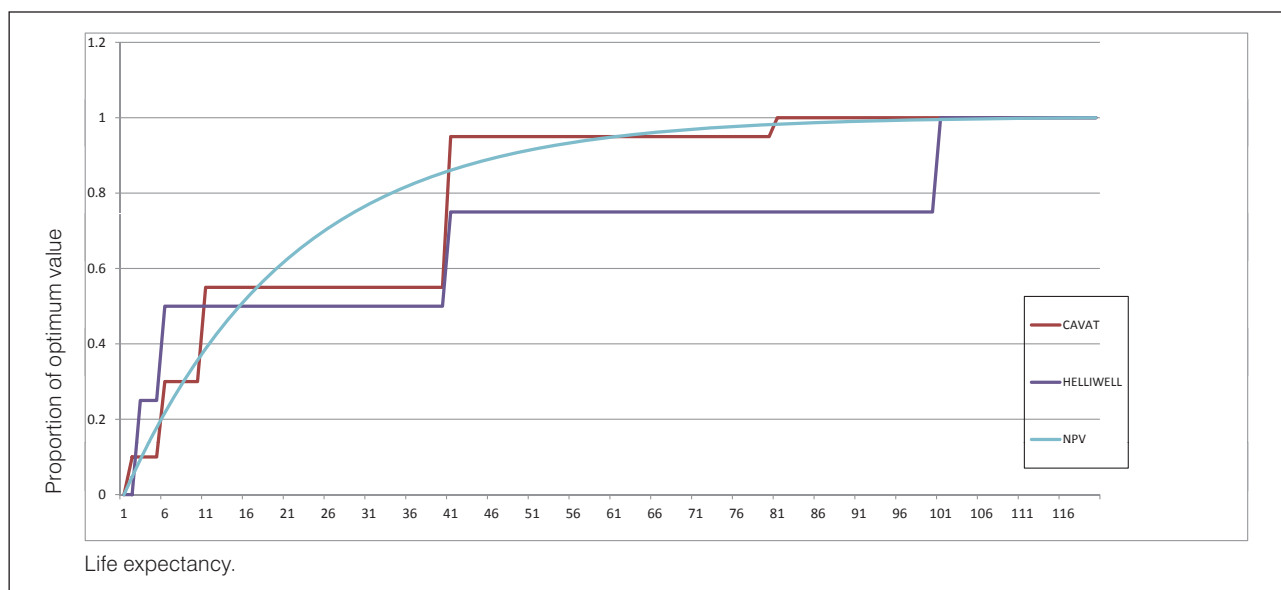
Each period's net income, stretching off into the foreseeable future, is given a 'today' equivalent (known as 'present value') that reflects its prospects and its distance into the future. Then all the present values for all the periods are added together. This can be offset against immediate or future expenditure by the same simple calculations. Annual landlord's costs such as insurance and repairs can be deducted before calculating present values. The final sum is known as net present value, which, hopefully it can be seen, can be used to mix and match present and future annual and capital values.

*As an example of the use of present value techniques, net present value (at 5% discount rate) is shown in the figure opposite. The proportion of optimum value (equaling 1) is plotted as a function of years' life expectancy. For comparison, the equivalent stepped values for tree life expectancy by the Helliwell and CAVAT systems are shown.*

I believe that amenity tree valuation could take a lot from net present value techniques, having as they do the ability to weigh up initial purchase and planting costs, steady increases in modern equivalent replacement cost as trees grow, annual costs like pruning or leaf-collection, end costs like felling and stump removal and soil repletion, end timber values, and known mortality rates and life expectancies for tree species. Furthermore if the ideal form of the tree in its position is decided upon and is capable of being maintained by periodic pruning, it appeals to the valuer in me that dependence on subjective obsolescence depreciation can largely be removed.

## Incongruities and conclusions

Even armed with a robust valuation, the problem is not yet solved. Consider our amenity tree that is enjoyed by all the neighbouring proprietors. In assessing its value we might be tempted to quantify the benefits enjoyed by them. However, they have no control over it and no expectation that it will remain, except in a broad probabilistic sense that if the owner enjoys it he will keep it and so they will continue to enjoy its amenity. Falling back on the principle that the valuer is valuing a legal interest in land on which a tree is situated, it is a nonsense for him to try and value the neighbour's legal interest (none) in the owner's land.



The proportion of optimum value (equaling 1) is plotted as a function of years' life expectancy. For comparison, the equivalent stepped values for tree life expectancy by the Helliwell and CAVAT systems are shown.

However, this is exactly what happens when a tree is subject to a tree preservation order. The public has taken a statutory controlling interest in the property on which the tree stands in order to protect the valuable public amenity that the tree provides. This may seem an uncomfortable imposition on the owner, yet it is only so if the owner does not also enjoy the tree. And a valuation may only be called for retrospectively if a tree is removed unlawfully and a measure of financial penalty or recompense is needed. In the circumstances, it begs the question as to whether these are

valuations at all since there is no buyer, no seller and no market.

My conclusion as arboriculturist and ex-valuer is that all of the existing methods of tree valuation that I have seen have elements that are consistent with sound property valuation principles; however, the extent of valuer subjectivity required, the lack of proper expression of what is being valued and for what purpose, and the extent to which it truly constitutes a valuation rather than an estimate of worth precludes use of them as property valuations for broader acceptance.

The lack of proper reflection of the role of the land in them undermines their meaningfulness. I also believe there is considerable scope to examine the net present value method for elements that can be learnt and simply applied to existing amenity tree valuation methods to reduce subjectivity, to the same end. I hope my thoughts and experiences are a useful contribution to the ongoing debate.

*Julian is happy to offer fuller explanations of the subjects covered in his article and can be reached at [jamorris@mail.com](mailto:jamorris@mail.com).*



## Get Chartered!

Through the Arboricultural Association.

Visit: [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)

Society for the Environment

For Chartered Environmentalist News see

[www.trees.org.uk/membership/Chartered-environmentalist](http://www.trees.org.uk/membership/Chartered-environmentalist)



# Chalara in Poland

Rob McBride, [www.treehunter.co.uk](http://www.treehunter.co.uk)

Bydgoszcz area, west Poland, June 2013



Dear *ARB Mag* reader,

I am Rob McBride, a tree hunter and volunteer 'citizen scientist' on the Woodland Trust's ObservaTree project. If the project's funding bid is successful we have been told by the project director that we will be the first 'volunteers' in the world to use the Genie II, a portable DNA testing machine, out in the field ... so no pressure there then.

On a family visit to Poland in early June I found a dozen or so young ash with Chalara. After this initial visit I returned and walked further – and found much more in the Bydgoszcz area.

I also travelled on the train from Bydgoszcz to Warsaw and again saw many cases

of Chalara out of the train window. From Warsaw I travelled to the Bialowieza Forest to attend the European Champion Tree Forum and not surprisingly saw even more cases alongside the roads (wind corridors!).

I did not find any Chalara in the Bialowieza Forest's ash trees, but they were immense – well over 35m in height – and so I could not see the leaves up close.

I hope that these photos of Chalara, with some in a more advanced stage, may assist in helping folks appreciate and identify how this tree disease can and will spread. It was not all bad news as, in my humble opinion, some of the trees seemed to be resisting the disease.

I have been in discussion with two Polish universities about giving some basic lectures on Chalara and I now have a few Polish contacts who are sending me any further sightings of the disease.

Of course, after my visits I used the UK-recommended biosecurity measures to decontaminate myself.

To see more pictures, visit [www.treehunter.co.uk](http://www.treehunter.co.uk) and click on Flickr, then 'View all sets'.



*Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus*. Chalara is caused by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea*, including its sexual stage *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus*.





# Science & Opinion



Right: Two more mature ash trees (2m and 2.64m girths) next to each other. One is badly affected by Chalara and I am not too sure about the other, but perhaps it is just beginning to show signs. These trees are 200m from a busy road and 10m from a canal.



Left: Not sure what is going on here ... Resistance? Fighting back?



This tree is on the right in the photo above. It clearly shows signs of the dieback and 'flushing' that occurs in affected trees.



The Chalara trees were surveyed along the canal to the west of the city of Bydgoszcz at N53 08.731 E17 53.271.



A young ash showing a 'diamond' lesion, a classic symptom of an infected tree. I have noticed many small (3mm–15mm) snails on many of the infected trees. I'm not sure whether this is relevant to the transport of spores up the stem of a tree, but I include the observation here for information.



# Return of the timber wolf?



Alaskan Malamute dogs are traditionally bred as sled dogs, designed to pull hard and fast.

**Horses have been used for centuries for extracting timber and now dogs are looking like a valuable option for smaller scale timber movements – especially from tight or very sensitive areas.**

Alaskan Malamute dogs are traditionally bred as sled dogs, designed to pull hard and fast. Chilworth Conservation Area had an opportunity to try a pair for removing cut sections of timber: the results were impressive and fun – even for the dogs.

Sarah Kiss, who manages Chilworth Conservation Area in Hampshire, explained, 'I wanted an eco-friendly way to move a pile of cut timber with minimum impact – the Conservation Area was part of the grounds of a stately home, now a hotel, and we didn't want to disturb guests with chainsaws or the quad bike on a Sunday morning. It's a delicate site with ancient woodland, recently planted trees nearby and complex ecology. The shortest path to extract the timber is narrow, and the amount we had to move was more than

we could comfortably carry out. Chatting to Angie at work about her pedigree Alaskan Malamutes and their weight-pull contests, I jokingly asked if they wanted some practice pulling timber – a few weeks later she bought a pair down to see what they can do.

'It involved some very low tech plastic sleds, some climbing slings and karabiners, and a bag of carrots – rather surprisingly that's what the dogs like as treats.

'I was worried we'd damage the dogs, but if it gets too much for them they just sit down. We shifted a huge pile in a couple of sessions, with none of the usual negatives. We had some students in from Southampton University Conservation Volunteers for the second session and the dogs were really good natured as well, allaying fears about working a site that is accessible to the public. There were no problems even with a dozen students bustling about.

'The dogs are quiet, willing and excellent fun – and they worked for three hours for a couple of carrots and a ham sandwich. The impact on the ground was less than if we'd carried it out by hand, so we were really pleased with the trial. We'll definitely be asking for their help again.'

If you want to find out more about the breed, check out [www.alaskanmalamute.org.uk](http://www.alaskanmalamute.org.uk)



The dogs are quiet, willing and excellent fun – and they worked for three hours for a couple of carrots and a ham sandwich.



# Elms, a hurricane and Brighton

*Rob Greenland has retired after 46 years with Brighton Council. In his long career he pioneered work to combat elm disease, dealt with the aftermath of a hurricane, worked with the founders of the Arboricultural Association and was ultimately charged with taking care of trees spread over 40 square miles.*



**As a young man Rob moved from television aerial rigger to mowing grass for the local parks department in his native Brighton. The job was boring, so much so that every sunny afternoon he would 'skive off' down to the local beach.**

It didn't take Fred, the Area Superintendent, too long to guess what was going on, but instead of sacking Rob he found him a more interesting job, having made a promise not to let him down. Rob fondly remembers this: without Fred's decision his career would undoubtedly have been very different.

Rob opted to join the 'Street Tree Gang' and after that first year the operatives stayed with what was to become the Arboricultural Team during the late '60s. Rob achieved a professional arboricultural qualification at Merrist Wood College, one of around eight candidates that year. He said, 'This was a special time as I attended college with like-minded people, several of whom I'm still in touch with today, real

tree people. I have always been grateful to tutors of the time especially Derek Patch who helped us enormously through the transition from physical ability, which we had, to the theory elements, which many were far less capable with.'

Returning to Brighton, which had sponsored his time at Merrist Wood and held his job open, he worked with a new Head of Service, Colin Bashford. Rob was appointed Tree Preservation Officer. They initiated a new regime to survey many thousands of trees in private ownership, protecting them by the imposition of tree preservation orders (TPOs). While the processes have evolved, the concepts still stand argument and are in place today with some 500 TPOs covering thousands of trees in Brighton and Hove.

In the early 1970s Colin moved on to other things and Rob was appointed to the Senior Arboriculturist position at Brighton Borough Council. At this time unique policies and procedures to combat elm disease were being formulated by the Arboricultural Team and supported by the elected members of the council. These remain relatively unchanged to this day with the sanitation policy being most instrumental, backed by full funding from the authority for the removal of infected elms in private ownership. 'This was one of the most significant measures to be adopted,' Rob said. 'While legislation existed to deal with privately owned trees, the process was laboured and much time was lost in which other trees could be colonised by the vector or infected via communal root systems.' Without this decision Rob is convinced that the long-term success of the programme could not have been achieved.

More recently Rob gained the support of Brighton and Hove's Environment

Committee members in a similar funding exercise, but this time it involved assisting a neighbouring local authority to provide benefits to the city. 'Adur District Council, now merged with Worthing, had always supported the Brighton and Hove programme, providing a buffer zone to our west, the area of most threat to the campaign,' he said.

'While many people continue to talk about the city's position between the downs and the sea, this, in reality, provides little geographical advantage as the long-term progression of the disease has been from the west (with vector movement assisted by the south-westerly prevailing winds) from the Chichester plain and beyond. Currently areas as near as Worthing, Coombes and Botolphs have lost their elms and are not now a threat, but Adur, despite their undaunting support, had financial difficulties in sponsoring the removal of private elms from the area, potentially undermining their previous success.' The Environment Committee members saw immediate benefits in providing assistance to Brighton and Hove's neighbours and agreed annual funding of £10,000, possibly a unique decision for one authority to fund work in another.

The test of this decision is that infection in privately owned trees has diminished year-on-year, with 2012's felling in the Adur area being carried out for a seasonal total of £1,500. While much of the control regime has been copied, nowhere has the success of the programme been so great as in Brighton and Hove, and as a direct result of years of that continued commitment, the city has been honoured with guardianship of the National Elm Collection and officers at Brighton and Hove are now internationally renowned for their expertise in the field of disease management. While protecting the city's elm resource, the most significant population of elm in Britain, the collection is constantly being expanded as further resistant varieties and cultivars become available either through sources developed in many years of networking or from commercial outlets; Rob fully expects this to continue.

Rob was invited by the Prince of Wales's Office to write contingency plans to protect the thousands of wych elms on the Scilly Isles in the event of an epidemic of elm disease. The plan would be also implemented, if necessary, in other areas owned by the Duchy of Cornwall. On his retirement Rob was honoured to receive a communication from His Royal Highness acknowledging his work with elm disease and the retention of the 19,000 elms existing in the city.



During the early period of elm disease, Rob also sat on EEC panels attempting to formulate a global strategy to combat the infection, together with experts from various parts of the world, and he has presented papers on the subject at local, national and international levels. By invitation of the City Forester in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Rob visited the area's Elm Disease Control Programme, which closely mirrors the methods and successes of the Brighton and Hove regime, and he is returning in December this year to present a paper on the current situation in Britain.

He recalls how, as a young local authority officer, he became involved in the early work of the Arboricultural Association, attending meetings to ministerial level with established and experienced members, for instance in working to move arboricultural safety to a position in its own right away from the forestry environment that dominated at the time. 'I was a bit daunted to work with people like Roy Finch and Giles Biddle at that time, but they gave me the greatest respect and I learned a great deal from them that definitely helped me in later years. Many others come to mind in those formative years but "Uncle Bill" Matthews, who was a frequent visitor to Brighton, was probably my greatest mentor for a long time.'

Rob has had a long-term interest in training and all of his staff have benefited. He wrote a number of the early Arboricultural Operational Training Modules covering a wide range of subjects for the then Local Government Training Board and these were used widely in county-based training centres serving local authorities. He was also an Arboricultural Instructor for many years, working at the Sussex Parks Training Centre.

The late 1980s saw the single largest threat to Brighton and Hove's trees since elm disease – and nobody saw it coming or was prepared for the consequences. Hurricane force winds of well over 100mph ripped through Brighton and Hove and devastated thousands of trees of all ages. 'As well as the loss of many fine trees of mixed species, hundreds of large, mature and prominent elms that we had kept safe for some years were damaged beyond safe keeping in just a few hours or were physically uprooted,' said Rob.

Not only were the parks and open spaces badly affected but many of Brighton's 504 hectares of mixed woodland were simply flattened. Rob and his colleague Nigel Skinner co-organised the clearance operations.

'We had no previous experience of dealing with disasters on the scale experienced



Rob in Whittingham Gardens, 1969.

and no time available to research a solution. We started by getting the area moving again and within 24 hours had all roads passable if not clear.'

The bonfires sited in prominent parks burned for a long time and gradually the streets and open spaces were cleared of the storm's victims. The woodlands were dealt with next, with experienced forestry companies carrying out the work involved. Rob co-ordinated the planting of the damaged areas and today visitors would be hard pressed to guess at the destruction many locals woke to in October 1987.

Rob's time has, like all of us, been taken up by the day-to-day work of a busy and demanding job and this has seen him take on wider strategic roles, especially since Brighton and Hove merged and

he was made the City's Arboricultural Manager, supervising an area of over 40 square miles. Rewriting the maintenance schedules has seen a vast improvement in tree care in newly acquired areas and complaints have been drastically reduced because of this. Contributing to Brighton's bid for International Bio-sphere status has been a recent task for Rob, as has writing contingency plans for dealing with oak processionary moth: if it should reach the city, the arboriculturists want to be ready.

Rob retired from local authority employment in April 2013 after 46 years and was given a civic reception by Mayor Bill Randall to mark his contribution to the preservation of the elm not only for Brighton but nationally. Not wanting to waste the skills developed during his career, he intends to be involved in selective consultancy.





# Mulching for disease control

Soil-borne pathogens such as *Phytophthora* and *Armillaria* are capable of causing substantial environmental damage in natural, forest and urban ecosystems. Recent research has shown that mulching can provide a useful cultural practice to manage these pathogens. In this article **Dr Glynn Percival** from the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory discusses developments in mulch formulation that may act as a potentially simple and effective means of suppressing soil-borne diseases.

## Introduction

It is now widely recognised that soil-borne pathogens such as *Phytophthora* and *Armillaria* are capable of causing serious economic losses to arable crops worldwide, producing environmental damage in natural, forest and urban ecosystems, and attacking woody plants found in managed town and city landscapes. Both pathogens are associated with soil conditions sub-optimal for root growth, i.e. excess or insufficient soil moisture, compaction and inappropriate pH – conditions frequently found in urban landscapes dominated by buildings, construction and traffic. As few plant protection products exist for control of these pathogens, management options to preserve valuable infected specimen trees and protect non-infected hosts rely heavily on enhancing tree vitality. In the case of *Armillaria* this can be achieved by soil de-compaction using an Air-Spade, addition of the bio-control agent *Trichoderma* fungus and re-packing the root collar with a physically inert material such as a perlite/builders' sand mix. In the case of *Phytophthora*, improvement in soil conditions, especially drainage and the appropriate use of phosphite-based fertilisers to improve tree vitality, is advocated. Such remedial measures, while worthwhile with historic or specimen trees, may prove to be expensive on a larger scale. Consequently, non-chemical management options are increasingly being sought for tree protection purposes

and will become of greater importance as future resource allocations to urban tree management decline, increasing pressure to deliver superior services at lower costs.

Mulching as a means of reducing soil moisture stress, suppressing weeds and fertilising has been used in arboricultural, agricultural, fruit and ornamental crop production systems for decades. Recent studies, however, have shown mulches can provide an integral cultural control method for suppressing disease development of several soil-borne plant pathogens such as *Phytophthora*, *Fusarium* and *Rhizoctonia*. Short-term effects include increased soil moisture, soil temperature moderation, improved soil nutrition, aggregation and drainage. Thus, mulches maintain a soil environment optimal for healthy root growth and by default induce a soil environment sub-optimal for opportunistic soil-borne pathogens. Physically, mulches also reduce splashing of rain or irrigation water, which can carry spores of disease-causing organisms to the stems or leaves of susceptible tree species.

## Pure mulches

Previous research by the author has evaluated the effect of fresh and composted pure organic mulches (a mulch derived purely from one tree species) of beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), silver birch (*Betula*

*pendula*), cherry (*Prunus avium*), evergreen oak (*Quercus ilex*) and English oak (*Q. robur*) on transplant survival and growth of several tree species. In the case of beech, for example, survival rates of control (non-mulched) trees was only 10%, i.e. 9 out of 10 transplanted trees died. Application of a pure mulch from cherry or hawthorn increased survival rates by 60–80%. Further field trials using conference pear and apple cv. 'Gala' recorded pure mulches derived from hawthorn and cherry increased crown volume growth by 100–150% and fruit yields by 100–200%.

Limited studies exist focusing on the effect of mulches derived solely from one tree species, on their potential to manage soil-borne *Phytophthora* and *Armillaria* pathogens. The purpose of the conducted research was to determine if a range of pure mulches can reduce the development and impact of pathogen severity caused by *Phytophthora cactorum*, *P. critica* and *Armillaria mellea*. For reasons of clarity only select data on containerised white-flowering horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) infected with *Phytophthora cactorum*, and *P. critica*, will be presented.

## Materials and methods

All mulches were made when trees were fully dormant, i.e. during December when, with the exception of evergreen oak, no foliage was present on the tree. Time of mulch making was important as chemical and physical variations will exist within pure





Phytophthora root rot on horse chestnut.

mulches made during spring and summer when foliage and flowers will be present, in turn affecting the mulch chemical composition, rate of decomposition and particle size. Each pure mulch was then applied to a depth of 12–15cm and 10 trees per pure mulch were used. Mulches were applied in early February when the trees were considered to be dormant.

Phytophthora inoculum

Pure cultures of *Phytophthora cactorum* and *P. criticola* were obtained from CBS-KNAW Fungal Biodiversity Centre, the institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Utrecht. Containerised white-flowering horse chestnut plants were

inoculated after bud break. Inoculum of both pathogens was produced on sterilized rice grains. Twelve colonized rice grains were added to each 20-litre pot around the peripheral edge of the root ball of each tree to a depth of 5cm. Trees were watered immediately following inoculation and then watered daily to maintain conditions conducive to *Phytophthora* development. All plants were located outdoors subject to natural climatic weather for 14 weeks before final evaluation of plant health and *Phytophthora* pathogen severity.

Phytophthora root rot lesion severity

Severity of both *Phytophthora* pathogens was assessed by recording the percentage infection of each root system: 0 = 0% no visible symptoms of *Phytophthora* infection, 1 = 1% to 15% of the root system infected, 2 = 16% to 50% of the root system infected, 3 = 51% to 85% of the root system infected, and 4 = >85% of the root system infected. All trees were harvested and the root system carefully washed. Water-soaked, discoloured regions of the root were classified as *Phytophthora* infected.

Results

Irrespective of *Phytophthora* pathogen, total plant dry weight following application of a pure mulch was, in all instances, higher than non-mulched *Phytophthora*-infected controls. However, differences in

the magnitude of growth induced between pure mulches following *Phytophthora* infection were recorded (Tables 1–2). Based on increased total plant dry weight as a measure of total plant biomass mulch, efficacy following inoculation with *P. cactorum* was in the order hawthorn>cherry>beech>evergreen oak>silver birch>English oak>no mulch control. In the case of *P. criticola* mulch efficacy was in the order hawthorn>beech>silver birch>cherry>evergreen oak> English oak>no mulch control.

Application of a pure mulch also had a significant influence on visual root rot lesion severity of both *Phytophthora* pathogens. In the case of *P. cactorum* root lesion severity was reduced by 53% (hawthorn pure mulch), 45% (cherry, silver birch pure mulch), 61% (English oak, beech pure mulch) and 39% (evergreen oak pure mulch) compared to non-mulched controls. In the case of *P. criticola*, root lesion severity was reduced by 44% (hawthorn pure mulch), 36% (cherry pure mulch), 33% (silver birch pure mulch), 53% (English oak pure mulch), 39% (evergreen oak pure mulch) and 61% (beech pure mulch) respectively compared to non-mulched controls.

Discussion

Results of this study recorded a positive influence of pure mulches on growth of horse chestnut trees and a reduction in root rot lesion severity caused by *P. cactorum* and *P. criticola* following artificial inoculation of containerised white-flowering horse chestnut trees. In the case of *P. cactorum*, reductions in root rot lesion severity ranged from 39–61%, while in the case of *P. criticola* reductions in root rot lesion severity ranged from 33–61% following application of a pure mulch compared to non-mulched controls. As *Phytophthora* pathogens destroy the fine absorbing roots of plants leading to loss of water and nutrient absorbing capacity as well as stored root carbohydrate reserves then reductions in *Phytophthora* root lesion severity would also account for the improvements in growth recorded in our study.

How mulches work

With respect to elucidating the suppressive nature of mulches, work by Dr Jim Downer at the University of California has been key to identifying mulching effects on the incidence of *Phytophthora*. Mulch-induced control strategies include:

- 1. Trees will produce roots in mulch layers. Consequently the interface of mulch and

Table 1. The influence of pure mulches on <i>P. cactorum</i> and <i>P. criticola</i> root rot lesion severity of horse chestnut ( <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> L.)		
Mulch	<i>P.cactorum</i>	<i>P.criticola</i>
Control (no mulch)	3.8	3.6
Common hawthorn	1.8	2.0
Cherry	2.1	2.3
Silver birch	2.1	2.4
English oak	1.5	1.7
Evergreen oak	2.4	2.2
Beech	1.5	1.4

All values mean of 10 trees.

Table 2. The influence of pure mulches on total tree dry weight of horse chestnut ( <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> L.) at week 14 after inoculation with <i>P. cactorum</i> and <i>P. criticola</i>		
Mulch	<i>P.cactorum</i>	<i>P.criticola</i>
Control (no mulch)	70.4	66.8
Common hawthorn	103.2	98.1
Cherry	97.8	92.9
Silver birch	89.2	93.9
English oak	86.7	85.2
Evergreen oak	93.9	90.4
Beech	95.9	94.6

All values mean of 10 trees.



Ash dieback trial site with willow mulches.

soil is the zone where pathogens are suppressed. It is also an area of high biological activity, increased diversity of fungal organisms, and increased enzyme activity where, for example, *Phytophthora* are 'eaten', dissolved and starved and are therefore rarely found there.

2. Cellulose forms part of the primary cell wall of green plants, acting as a structural molecule to provide plant rigidity. Following the application of a mulch to a soil surface the concomitant microbial and fungal population build-up promotes

a reservoir of enzymatic activity such as cellulase and laminarinase that in turn cause the mulch to break down. Cellulose microfibrils present in *Phytophthora* cell walls are susceptible to enzymatic destruction particularly by cellulases present in mulch litter layers that cause cell wall lysis and, by default, a subsequent reduction in *Phytophthora* pathogen severity.

3. Organic mulches contain a variety of soil microbes that can exert biological control over *Phytophthora* pathogens, either through resource competition or the production of antibodies.

4. Growth effects on pure mulched trees may also relate to allelochemicals released as mulches degrade over time. For example, testing of water soluble extracts of pure mulches derived from hawthorn, cherry, silver birch, English and evergreen oak positively increased pea seed germination, relative growth rate and photosynthetic efficiency of plants.

## Are all pure mulches good?

On a note of caution, however, other researchers have found that the application of water soluble extracts obtained from beech, pine, eucalyptus and acacia mulches suppressed germination of a range of seeds from several plants. Likewise pure mulches derived from cypress trees have been shown to reduce the growth of hydrangea, spirea and viburnum compared to garden-centre-bought mulches. Cypress trees are noted for their resistance to decay fungi which is associated with the presence of phenolic compounds within woody

tissue. Consequently, it was suggested these phenolics would be leached into the soil in turn inhibiting root growth. Pure mulches derived from *Eucalyptus* foliage have been found to contain phytotoxic organic oil and acid residues three months after application that in turn were toxic to germinating seedlings of several plants.

## Pure mulches and Chalara ash dieback

The potential threat of *Chalara* ash dieback to wipe out 90–95% of ash trees within the UK has received national media attention. As no fungicides are presently registered for *Chalara* control, research at the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory has instigated a field trial to evaluate the potential effect of a pure mulch derived purely from willow on ash dieback severity. The reason why willow was selected is that willows are naturally high in a chemical known as salicylic acid. Salicylic acid is also an important pharmaceutical drug used on a daily basis by the general public, sold under the trade name Aspirin. Salicylic acid is also recognised as a potent plant defence activator, i.e. when this chemical comes into contact with a plant it causes the plant to switch on its own defence/immune system. This includes production of antibodies, defensive enzymes, phenolic acids, tannins and increased leaf thickness. In theory this means that as the mulch breaks down, salicylic acid will be released into the soil that will in turn switch on the defence systems of the ash trees via root contact and hopefully confer resistance against *Chalara* ash dieback. In support of this hypothesis, research elsewhere has shown plant defence activators can reduce the severity of a range of foliar diseases such as scab, powdery mildew and anthracnose by 60–80%. Evaluation of ash dieback severity based on leaf infection took place in July.

## Guidelines for applying mulches

1. Mulch should be applied from the drip line to the trunk. If this is not practical, the minimum mulch circle radii should be 0.3m for small trees, 1m for medium trees and 3m for large trees.
2. When applying mulch it is best to kill or remove existing ground cover or at least mow the grass very short and remove clippings. Mulch should be applied directly to the soil surface; do not use landscape fabric to separate the mulch from the soil.
3. A mulch layer should be 5–10cm thick depending on the tree species and type of mulch applied.



Willow mulch around tree.





4. To avoid root disruption for most species mulch should not be removed. Additional mulch should be added on an annual basis to maintain a 5–10cm depth.

5. Mulch should not be placed against the trunk. Mulch will retain too much moisture against the trunk that may result in disease.

## Conclusions

Results of this study show that application of a pure mulch can provide a reduction in root rot lesion severity caused by *P. cactorum* and *P. criticola* and subsequently increase tree growth. With pressures to find non-chemical means of pathogen control stimulated by public and government demands to reduce pesticide usage, pure mulches potentially have a positive impact for those involved in the care and maintenance of urban, nursery, forestry and orchard trees as well as horticultural crop production systems. Practically pure mulches require

little capital investment and only small adjustments to standard management aftercare procedures and may provide a useful cultural management strategy to aid in the control of other potentially devastating tree diseases such as acute oak decline and sweet chestnut blight.

## Selected References

Chalker-Scott, L. 2007. Impact of mulches on landscape plants and the environment – A review. *J. Environ. Hort.* 25:239–249.

Downer, A.J., J.A. Menge, and E. Pond. 2001a. Effects of cellulytic enzymes on *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. *Biol Control*. 91:839–846.

Downer, A.J., J.A. Menge, and E. Pond. 2001b. Association of cellulytic enzyme activities in Eucalyptus mulches with biological control of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. *Biol Control*. 91:847–855.

Downer, A.J., B. Faber, and J.A. Menge. 2002. Factors affecting root rot control in mulched avocado orchards. *HortTechnology* 12:601–605.

Downer, A.J. and B. Faber. 2005. Effect of *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* mulch on establishment of California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*). *J. App. Hort.* 7:90–94.

Duryea, M.L., R.J. English, and L.A. Hermansen. 1999. A comparison of landscape mulches: chemical, allelopathic and decomposition properties. *J. Arboriculture* 25:88–97.

Fraser, G.A. and G.C. Percival. 2003. The influence of biostimulants on growth and vitality of three urban tree species following transplanting. *Arboriculture J.* 27:43–57.

Gregg, B. 2005. Mulch madness: Effective use of landscape mulch. *The Landsculptor*. December:35–37.

Jin, Z., Y. Chung, K. Iiyama, and S. Watanabe. 2002. Changes of chemical components of leaf litter of *Ginkgo biloba* during mulching. *J. Arboriculture* 28:171–177.

Percival, G.C., K. Noviss, and I. Haynes. 2009. Field evaluation of systemic inducing resistance chemicals at different growth stages for the control of apple (*Venturia inaequalis*) and pear (*V. pirina*) scab. *Crop. Prot.* 28:629–633.

Zwart, D.C. and Soo-Hyung, K. 2012. Biochar amendment increases resistance to stem lesions caused by *Phytophthora* spp. in tree seedlings. *HortSci.* 47:1736–1740.



## Soil is key for trees

**Treework Environmental Practice and Laverstoke Park Laboratories have launched a partnership called Soil-is-Key with the aim of improving the health of trees through deeper understanding of the soil that they depend on.**

Soil-is-Key brings a holistic soil approach to the tree world. With Laverstoke's experience and focus on complete soil health and Treeworks' longstanding engagement with conservation arboriculture, this collaboration aims to deliver and share an accessible way of studying the rooting environment,



exploring ways of improving soil health using organic amendments that support the below-ground ecosystem.

Neville Fay, Principal Consultant at Treework Environmental Practice, said, 'In arboriculture, we spend so much time looking up and so little time looking down, even when searching out pathogens. We know a little about fungus-root mutual relationships, but have less knowledge when it comes to the interrelated world of soil organisms (fungal, bacterial, protozoan, worms etc.) and the food network they all contribute to below ground that is so fundamental to the tree's healthy existence. Our Soil-is-Key partnership gives us the opportunity to provide expertise in this vital aspect of tree health.'

Simon Parfey of Laverstoke Park Laboratories added, 'Trees are so important to many different ecosystems that it simply makes sense to include the one beneath our feet when looking for answers relating to tree health. Soil-is-Key combines Laverstoke Park Laboratories' practical experiences based on applied scientific knowledge together with Treework Environmental Practice's expertise as leading tree specialists. The objective of the alliance is simple: to learn and teach from practical knowledge, and develop robust and positive action for the better management of our trees – which



**Brewing compost tea for application to trees.**

fundamentally includes their soil. It is unfortunate that so many modern-day environmental issues can be traced back to depleted humic layer and a lack of fertility in soils.'

The Soil-is-Key partnership is currently operating a number of study projects that are assessing and treating mature and veteran trees affected by disease and other threats. These include oak trees affected by acute oak decline (AOD) and plane trees affected by Massaria disease of plane (MDP).

For more information visit the Soil-is-Key page at [www.treeworks.co.uk](http://www.treeworks.co.uk).





# ‘Let’s go to Africa and climb some trees’

*Back in 2012 a Skype call (and a few beers) led to this statement being put into action and an expedition was born.*

**David ‘Dak’ Wiles and Drew Bristow** talk about the trip and the trees ...



**With my love of Africa – I am originally from there – and our love of climbing and exploration, Drew Bristow and I decided to team up to form Explore Trees and bring together climbers from across the world to run an expedition. Explore: The Ancient Trees of Africa took place in January 2013 with the aim of working with South Africa National Parks, the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry and the South Africa National Biodiversity Institute to document South Africa’s Champion Trees.**

The team was made up of Geoff Pugsley (UK), Stephen Fry (UK) and Vincent Jolin (Canada), headed up by me, Dak Wiles, and Drew (NZ). The team flew into Cape Town where we were to start our journey of nearly 5000km up the east coast and then inland up to the Limpopo in the far north of South Africa. With the team together and our equipment sorted – with great thanks to Yale Cordage, Treestuff.com, ACTSAFE,

ArbAid, ABR/ISC and RailRiders clothing – the team were set and ready to start on the adventure.

The team’s first trees were located in the iconic Arderne Gardens at the base of Table Mountain in Cape Town where we climbed and measured the largest known Moreton bay fig and the grand Aleppo pine. At this location in central Cape Town the reality of our adventure hadn’t set in yet: as we all too often work in towns and cities it felt like a very special rec climb.

The following day we packed up our vehicle and hit the road. Then it all became very real, very fast. South Africa is a BIG country and our rented Toyota minivan was going to have a very hard life over the next three to four weeks carrying five climbers, five sets of big tree gear, camping stuff/hammocks/portaledges etc. Soon after leaving Cape Town we headed to Stellenbosch to measure a 42m Norfolk Island pine and to meet up with South





## First ascents

Geoff Pugsley suspended above the yellowwood canopy. Many of the trees on the trip had never been climbed before. This meant access systems were used that enabled descent if problems were encountered – insects, damaged trees etc.

African legend Leon Visser. And then we left to visit the yellowwoods, the national tree of South Africa.

## The yellowwood trees of SA

After leaving the city it was time to experience the forested areas of Knynsa and Tsitsikamma, famous for old-growth yellowwood trees (*Afrocarpus falcatus* and *Podocarpus falcatus*) up to 1000 years old.

After months of applying for permits, we were met by forest rangers from SANParks who would give the final yes/no on climbing the trees. After discussing no use of gaffs (!) etc., we were allowed to climb the old giants. After a few attempts, lines were installed and base anchors made set. Chatting to the rangers made us realise how much time they spend protecting these trees yet they may never get to see the upper canopy: this was soon fixed using the ActSafe ascender. A quick safety check and instruction in safe use had Johnathon (the first ranger we met) slowly ascending through the old man's beard (lichen), past the mossy lower branches and into the open upper canopy. This was a view that may have been impossible for him to see before we arrived and really showed how important it is to keep protecting these amazing old trees.

After 10 minutes or so we lowered Johnathon to the ground and saw the huge smile on his face. This experience

soon filtered through SANPark and set the tone for exploring most of the yellowwood trees. The yellowwood trees are home to critically endangered Cape parrots and are constantly under threat from illegal logging.

All too soon our time was up and we started the long journey to Hogsback, made famous by Tolkien and the apparent inspiration for much of *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*. Located on the side of a mountain and perpetually covered in mist, Hogsback is home to an amazing valley of unlogged forest and unclimbed trees.

We stayed at a really friendly backpackers' place but set up hammocks in a big old pine tree overlooking the valley, next to a lookout 15m up. The next day we tramped into the rainforest in search of the eastern monarch tree. This was another gem of a tree, totally covered in mosses, lichens, orchids and home to smaller trees deeply rooted in branch unions. From the top of this tree (36.2m) we could survey the rest of the forest and soon started identifying new trees to go and climb with many a call of 'That one's bigger', 'Nah, that one is' etc. Unfortunately our schedule did not allow for too much deviation from our original plan, but we did set the seed to return as we knew we could find bigger and older trees. For now, we had to pack up again. Kruger National Park was waiting for us and the infamous baobab trees of the Limpopo District.







## Yellowwood



### How big? How old?

Yellowwoods reach a height of 40m and have crown spreads of up to 35m. First branches can be as high as 25m above the ground. The oldest yellowwoods that the team explored were thought to be just under 1000 years old and this seems to be the ceiling for their age.



Tsitsikamma: the big tree.





## Baobab



### How big do they get?

No one really knows! The huge stems are known to store water for years of no rain and they swell considerably after heavy rain – the Sagole baobab swelled about 0.5m in the 48 hours we were there. The trees get damaged by elephants peeling the bark off by rubbing (and of course by humans). This gives them a very gnarly-looking appearance.

### The mighty baobab

After leaving Hogsback, the team travelled up to the gates of Kruger National Park. A slightly later start than had been anticipated got us to the gate by 6am and in no time at all we were surrounded by impala, zebras and herds of elephant.

A strict speed limit of 40kph meant a stay in a bush camp before we could exit the park the next day, but not before spotting four of the 'big 5', only leopard eluded us but dung beetles almost made up for it ...

It was the savannah land of upper Kruger and Limpopo that felt like the Africa from TV, and baobabs (*Adansonia digitata*) alongside the road started to whet the appetite for the trees to come. These have to be some of the most bizarre-looking trees on the planet – HUGE stems, bark that resembles elephant skin, a small amount of foliage and wood that looks like a succulent plant.

Before we arrived, Limpopo had experienced some of its heaviest rain in 10 years which had washed many roads away and left all in a bad state. When the team arrived at the Sagole baobab (reputed to be the biggest baobab on the planet) we found it knee-deep in water and almost unreachable.

To come this far and not get up close would have been heartbreaking, so we decided to see how good the Toyota

minibus was at driving through mud and water. To our surprise it made it through and we could see the tree in all its mind-blowing glory – words truly do not describe the immenseness of this tree!

We had originally planned to spend half a day there but this soon changed when we arranged permission to install our hammocks after an hour of negotiation with the tree's 'guardian' (due to local strikes and lack of communication he was not expecting us). We decided to stay for two days, just clambering around and snoozing in hammocks – such a change from the days of driving with a schedule to keep.

All of the big baobabs are hollow (we stayed in one that had a working pub inside) and this was no exception. At night a cacophony of spine tails and bats would leave to go out hunting insects. The Sagole baobab has a girth of 33.9m (47.85m with contours) and a crown spread of 43.15m and 37.0m. This truly is an amazing tree and it really summed up what the expedition was all about: to experience and see new trees, to find and climb trees that had never been climbed before, and to record all the data so that these trees can hopefully be looked after for generations to come.

We owe huge thanks to all of our sponsors, to SANParks and DWAF for arranging permits for us to do this, and to friends we met along the way.



Village children (and Vince)

# The Consultant's Tool Kit Professionalism



Jim  
Quaife

**I began this article under the title of Mistakes and as it grew it seemed to morph into Professionalism. I was thinking about the fundamental errors of consultancy, which can be split into two broad categories – technical and mindset.**

I have deliberately steered away from the technical side of things because that is mostly about knowledge, but consultancy is all about how one uses knowledge and relates to others. By now you may think that I overdo the notion of the consultant's mindset, but I don't apologise because one's approach is everything, and there is an inseparable connection between professionalism and mindset.

So, what causes mistakes, aside from insufficient knowledge? None of us knows everything and whilst the greater one's residual knowledge the better, it is just as important to recognise missing or defective knowledge and how to improve it, and more importantly to be able to hold back until you have. That capability is down to mindset.

We all know how to derive an RPA – don't we? How does the BS5837 open-grown model of root morphology apply in the centre of Manchester? The concept is not one of using a calculator but of reading the site circumstances intelligently. However, it is not enough just to understand it properly; you have to explain it in lay terms. Who is going to disassemble your report the most avidly? In most cases it is probably not your client: the arboricultural officer and the objectors are more likely to be the most analytical. The impassioned objector, with wall-charts, spreadsheets and a huge group email, will also have a copy of 5837 and oh yes, he will have done the arithmetic. Unless you explain about rooting volume (succinctly) he will assume that he has a better understanding of roots than you do and might not be above

implying that you are attempting a spot of bamboozlement! This might be easy to deflect but perhaps it might have been better to have explained it properly in the first place. After all, one can hardly charge the client for time spent rectifying your own shortcomings.

Then we come to landscapes – not selecting pretty flowers but the structural arboricultural landscape character of the proposal. Waxing lyrically about the advantages/disadvantages of various trees reads well, but so what? What is the overall arboricultural landscape impact of the proposal – positive, neutral or, er ... not? Are you presenting the scheme to get past the short-term planning post or is it sustainable in the longer term – a site you would be proud to return to? Sustainability is a word that can be manipulated, but to my mind in relation to trees sustainability means the long-term compatibility of a tree or trees with the spatial qualities of the site. By all means bung in prettiness, ecology, policies and the whole bag because they are planning language (and I'm not being cynical), but, taking a step backwards to look at the situation with an objective perspective, would you want to live there?

One of the more common lapses of mindset is to do with the pivotal purpose of a report, statement or proof – the terms of reference and their relationship to the conclusions. Frequently one sees the brief set out at the beginning, either copied directly from the introductory letter or formulated by the consultant, listing all the things you are going to do. Then you deal with them and everything is lovely, except that when the reader arrives at the conclusions it all becomes a bit woolly. It may well all be in the body of the text, but the function of conclusions is to draw everything together into, well ... a conclusion, so that the reader has the outcome encapsulated. The solution is actually very simple. Repeat every term of reference and answer it with an individual and short paragraph, or better still a sentence. A good report will have the reader anticipating your conclusions and if they are not realised, it all looks a bit flabby.

I have dealt with conversation and listening before, but a common mistake is, back at the office, realising that a particular matter

is unclear but not clarifying it on the phone or email with the client and/or the person who can actually answer. Sometimes this is pride (not wanting to admit that you were not properly attentive), indifference, or just lethargic superimposition of an assumption. By the same token you need to make sure that you have made yourself clear to the client and those others involved; they too might not want to admit they don't understand. Pride, indifference and just plain laziness will devalue your work and your reputation.

I haven't gone in for anecdotes too much, but I well remember a particularly tense meeting when a pathetically arrogant LPA planning team did most of the talking (no mean feat with me in the room!) and was about to wind it all up when I asked them to initial the notes I had taken, pointing out as gently as I could that they had not taken any. Quite apart from wrong-footing them (yes, I can be shallow and superficial), it was absolutely vital to establish what had actually happened, who said what, and who was going to do what. There can be a curious inverse relationship between notes and amnesia.

On the matter of attitude there is a world of difference between confidence and arrogance. The ability to stay calm when confronted with the world's greatest twerp, who has not only harvested even the high-hanging fruit of banality, but combines it exquisitely with studied rudeness, is a skill indeed. The trick is to not put others through the same ordeal. The irony is that if you listen well, you are remembered as a good conversationalist!

I also recall being asked a question in one of the Consultancy Courses as to why the AA's Code of Professional Conduct included item 6:

*A member shall not knowingly investigate the professional competence of another member without the knowledge of that member.*

This was a bit of a curved ball and I had to find something fascinating about my shoelaces to give me a moment or two to ruminate, but the answer actually gets to the heart of professionalism and more to the point, mindset. Professionals are supposed to be above the antics of the kindergarten playground, and if you are instructed to appraise the work of another (whether AA member or not), the first thing you should remember is that there are always, but always at least two sides to every story.

I'm sure that if we had to we would all admit to deriving a little smug satisfaction when happening upon sub-standard



work of others, but do you sink to the level of thumbing your nose at them and savouring the prospect of ambush, or are you more interested in the standing of your profession? I do not condone sub-standard work being ignored or dealt with in a covert manner, but equally there is no excuse for luxuriating in it. On such occasions (mercifully rare) open communication is essential. Discuss the shortcomings and try to understand how they came about. Yes, it is imperative to ensure errors are corrected, but ideally this should be achieved by mutual agreement with a view to putting the individual back on track rather than chastisement.

You should send the individual a draft of your comments. This is not just a matter of common courtesy, but more importantly it provides an opportunity for the individual to respond and correct any mistakes that you have made. In short you are not attempting to catch the individual out. This fits in perfectly with advice given to me by a barrister a long time ago who, when looking with dismay at my brash attempts to shoot my opponent down in flames, said, *'justify your own case first, and if done well enough there is no need for a rebuttal.'*

Drawing on the Consultancy Course again, its purpose is to impart something

of the art of consultancy by weaving all the subjects together. The various subjects that a consultant has to master are ineffective if not used in an integrated and commanding way. Using the analogy of a car, having all the components doesn't mean that you know how to assemble them and certainly doesn't teach you to drive. A consultant is the driver.

The fundamental mindset mistake is to not develop the intellectual capacity to understand the full meaning and scope of being a professional consultant.



## What AND Where? #1

Answers in an email, please, to:  
[ARBmag.editor@trees.org.uk](mailto:ARBmag.editor@trees.org.uk)

### Dear all

I've just come back from a brief trip to Virginia and North Carolina in the USA. I was looking forward to seeing and being able to identify much of the local flora – especially, of course, the trees.

I saw plenty [over 20 oak species] but identification was a struggle and I am now poring over books to put names to images! All good fun and hopefully increasing my plant knowledge – as most travel does.

Many of you may have heard of John Whitehead – an inspirational lecturer at Merrist Wood in the '70s who encouraged me to go on to Kew for further study.



I understand that at the last count he had visited all but a handful of the 192 countries recognised by the United Nations. What a feat and what a plant knowledge he must have!

With this in mind, how about a light-hearted competition – trying to put a name to a plant and the place where it is growing ...?

The first successful entrant gets a mention in the next *ARB Magazine* and can pick the next plant and place. Sorry, that's the only prize!! John, if you are reading this – you are not allowed to enter.

One clue: these pictures were NOT taken in the USA!!

Peter Thurman



## BS 8545

### *Young trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape*

Keith Sacre, Sales Director, Barcham Trees

**It seems a lifetime ago that Mick Boddy approached me at an Arb Association Conference and asked me whether I would be interested in joining a group revisiting an existing British Standard. We had both had a couple of drinks and I foolishly replied, 'Of course, but what is really needed is a whole new standard.'**

The result, after more than three years of work, is BS 8545, which is now out for consultation. Inevitably the document, as it now stands, will have flaws and not everyone will like the way it is presented, but the drafting panel, after much discussion, felt that the time was right to allow others to comment. So it is now in the public arena for comment and its eventual success as a credible and useful standard is dependent on the comments and observations received from the people who will have to use it. The more comments and observations made, the greater the likelihood of the final published document having general credibility and acceptance and, most importantly, actually being used.

Firstly I would like to thank the drafting panel who have put in a tremendous amount of time and effort. The members of the drafting panel, in no particular order, are: Jeremy Barrell, Brian Crane, Glynn Percival, Tony Kirkham, Pete Thurman, Ian Phillips, Mike Volp, Pete Wells, Dave Brown, Rupert Bentley Walls, Andy Tipping and Mick Boddy. It would also be churlish not to mention Sophie Watson from BSI who has been superb throughout the whole process and continues to offer first class support.

BS 8545 is a new standard and is intended for people involved in the processes of resourcing, designing with, producing, planting and managing young trees from the nursery into the landscape.

The purpose of the standard is to disseminate information and good practice. Its intention is to ensure, as far as is possible with living material, that transplanted trees are able to grow and flourish, thereby making a long-term contribution to the landscape. It aims to identify and consolidate young tree planting as a continuous process from policy and design, to tree nursery, through to independence in the landscape.

The standard does not seek to be prescriptive or to provide a simple solution to cover all eventualities, recognising that there is no single route to achieve its ends; rather it traces a series of good practice options, providing guidance and enabling an optimal route to be planned, defined by individual site constraint. It is for those involved in the process of achieving independence in the landscape for young trees to decide which of the options outlined in the body of this standard are appropriate to their own particular circumstances and which of the numerous routes to follow. These options will be conditioned by design and strategic intentions, individual site constraints and requirements, nursery availability and quality of tree stock, budget size and maintenance schedules.

It is recognised that each site will be different, and the successful use of this standard will depend on the depth and

integrity of individual site assessment and the expertise of the team making that site assessment.

So to the document, which is set out in a different way from previous standards. The contents are divided into seven sections which represent the whole process covered by the scope of the standard. These sections are:

- Policy and Strategy
- Site Evaluation and Constraints
- Species Selection
- Nursery Production
- Despatch, Transportation and Storage
- Planting
- Post-Planting and Maintenance.

Each of the sections is represented by a flow chart.

The first part of the standard is set out under the headings as a series of recommendations. No informative or explanatory information is included in the first part of the standard. The supporting information and detail are set out in the annexes which are laid out under the same main headings. The annexes are followed by a comprehensive reading list of material used to inform the standard. The standard is supported by a series of original drawings. The intention has been throughout to produce a standard which is logical, clear and sequential, and hopefully the draft goes a considerable way to achieving this objective.

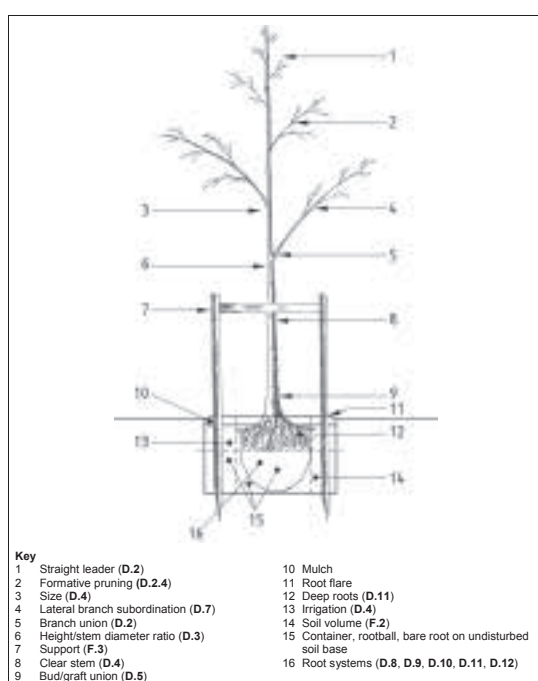
But no matter how I describe the new standard here this cannot substitute for reading it yourself. There is **a full pdf on the AA website** ([www.trees.org.uk/aa/news/New-BS-8545-draft-out-for-consultation-182.html](http://www.trees.org.uk/aa/news/New-BS-8545-draft-out-for-consultation-182.html)), which will make reading easier than using the BS system, although all responses and comments will have to be made following the BS protocol.

I can safely say that no one on the panel is precious about the draft standard. Constructive criticism and useful observation and comment can only improve the chances of publishing a standard which is useful and used.

The closing date for comments is **31 August**.

If there are parts of the standard you would like to discuss prior to making representations then please do not hesitate to contact me at [keith@barchamtrees.co.uk](mailto:keith@barchamtrees.co.uk)

See Keith at Conference talking about BS 8545.



F.10 – Factors involved in tree planting. From draft BS 8545.



**And now for  
something  
completely different**

**... or, lesser known woody plants  
worthy of greater recognition!**

***Gymnocladus dioicus*  
Kentucky coffee tree**

**Dan Crowley, Dendrologist, Westonbirt Arboretum**

*Gymnocladus dioicus* at Cambridge University  
Botanic Garden, (Robert Crowley)





**Gymnocladus dioica**, the Kentucky coffee tree, in flower. (Hugh Angus)

**An early horticultural introduction, the Kentucky coffee tree was planted in the UK before 1748. While it arrived not long after John Tradescant the Younger introduced some of the now more familiar North American species such as tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and swamp cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), the Kentucky coffee tree has remained comparatively less known.**

The common name is said to have come from the seeds being roasted and ground into a 'coffee-like' drink by the early settlers of Kentucky and Tennessee. However, this is disputed by some, with the name reportedly more likely to have originated due to the appearance of the very dark 'coffee-like' seeds rather than their having been used as an early alternative for coffee – apparently they are very bitter.

Whilst there may be some debate as to the correct origin of the common name, the origins of the generic name, *Gymnocladus*, are more straightforward. It is Greek for



**Gymnocladus dioica** at Cambridge University Botanic Garden. (Robert Crowley)

## Fact file

Scientific name	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>
Family	Fabaceae
Native range	East and central United States
Common name	Kentucky coffee tree
Size	Medium
Attributes	Good spring and autumn colour, distinctive foliage, suitable for use in an urban setting
Planting advice	Prefers full sun, adaptable to different soil conditions

naked branch (*gymnos* – naked, *klados* – branch). The species is particularly late into leaf in spring and also drops early. Though this apparent tardiness can leave you wondering just when you will get to enjoy the tree in leaf, the late emergence of the leaves does preclude it from the possibility of being damaged by late spring frosts whilst affording the opportunity for specimens to be underplanted with spring-flowering herbaceous plants.

Adopted as the state tree in Kentucky, its distribution in North America is broad, extending in the north from Ontario, Canada, southwards across many of the central and eastern states. It grows in bottomland habitats and is uncommon in the wild, though it is planted as an ornamental throughout the States. In nature it attains heights of over 30m, with a potential girth of over 2m.

The foliage is impressive. Bipinnate, the leaves can be nearly a metre long and more than half as wide. The lowest pinnae are simple, but the upper ones are made up of four to seven leaflets, which are small, at around 5cm long, and ovate. The leaves are flushed pink when they emerge, and the eventual leaf size and form prove a useful diagnostic when identifying specimens. They turn yellow in autumn and leaflets may fall individually, leaving the rachis behind on the tree. The bark of the tree is also a feature, with criss-crossed ridges, particularly on younger growth, also proving distinctive. The shoots are stout and largely conceal the buds, which can leave the tree with a slightly dead-looking appearance in the winter.

Slow growing and sometimes sparsely branched, a specimen at Westonbirt planted in 1994 has little more than half a dozen branches! The shoots are said to have orange-coloured pith, which may be an aid to identification in its leafless state, but given the lack of branches on our specimen, I have refrained from attempting to confirm this for myself. Leaves also

tend to be clustered towards the ends of branches, giving trees a slightly 'lion's tail' appearance.

The specific epithet is encountered as both *dioica* and *dioicus*, but following the advice of the Linnean Society, *dioicus* is used here. Either way, it refers to the dioecious nature of the tree, with individuals being either male or female.

At Westonbirt, it can be tricky to ascertain the gender of our specimens: although the Kentucky coffee tree is perfectly hardy, it won't flower without adequate spring and summer heat. Some specimens do flower elsewhere in the country, however, such as at Cambridge University Botanic Garden. The flowers themselves are inconspicuous amid the foliage, and as it is a member of the Fabaceae (pea family), the seeds are enclosed in a pod characteristic of this family.

Tolerant of the urban environment and drought, and adaptable in a wide range of soils, the Kentucky coffee tree warrants being both better known and more widely planted. Because it prefers full sun, growing the tree in a prominent position will be rewarded – eventually!

There are less than a handful of other species in the *Gymnocladus* genus, with only *G. sinensis* recorded along with *G. dioicus* as being in cultivation in Britain. Other relatives in the Fabaceae include the more often seen *Gleditsia* and *Robinia*, though unlike these two, *Gymnocladus* is unarmed!

*If you would like to tell ARB Magazine readers about your favourite 'lesser known woody plant worthy of greater recognition', email ARBmag.editor@trees.org.uk.*



Read Dan Crowley's Westonbirt Dendrologist's Blog via [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-trees](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-trees) to find out more.



# Elcoat Ltd – rubber production in Northern Sumatra



Paul  
Elcoat

**In the last edition of the ARB Mag I described how Matt George, Nick Hudleston and I travelled to Aceh Tamiang in Northern Sumatra to assist an NGO whose aim is to improve the local economy by helping rubber farmers to produce and sell clean, low moisture raw latex.**

Successful companies in the UK are accustomed to working to standards and delivering a 'quality assured' service or product. If we were producing latex we would know what clean and low moisture content means, we would implement processes to ensure that we meet these requirements and we would manage the

supply chain in order to know exactly what the moisture level would be on arrival with the customer.

Our test procedures would be certified to ISO9001 and the price that we would achieve at market would be in line with the global price index.

In the UK it is easy to put all of this into place; our industrial infrastructure is fantastic, access to knowledge and certification services is a doddle, and the markets are as regulated as they can possibly get.

Out in Sumatra it is a different story. They can grow rubber alright but all of the other things I have mentioned are very difficult to access. This results in enthusiastic farmers working hard to produce tonnes of raw latex and then sending it off to market without knowing if it meets the clean and dry requirements. They have little idea of prices and are at the mercy of unscrupulous buyers who pay them based upon their test results. At the very least it is a gamble, but then when corruption and

cheating are factored in, the situation is pretty grim.

Matt, Nick and I worked through this predicament with the farmers and our colleagues at KDA (Kuala Simpang Development Aid) over many long hot hours in the forest and in a little office above the pharmacy, and following significant analysis and discussion we were able to put together a plan which would allow KDA to fully assist and influence the local rubber industry.

I will briefly share the recommendations later in the article but first I would like to take readers through the history of the area, KDA and the process of rubber production in Aceh Tamiang.

Rubber was originally planted in Sumatra by the Dutch during the 19th century. Indonesia was once one of the most valuable European colonies under the Dutch Empire's rule and it contributed to Dutch global prominence in the spice and cash crop trade in the 19th to early 20th centuries. The colonial social order was based on a rigid racial and social structure with a Dutch elite living separately to their native subjects.

In the early 20th century the palm oil industry grew in response to international buyers, and major growers started to change their plantations from being predominantly rubber into this new prosperous plant. Palm was originally imported from South Africa by a Finnish company that had discovered how well it grows in the compatible soil and climate of Tamiang.

Rubber started to slowly vanish from the main plots, leaving only traditional growers with their old trees to try to make a living from low production and decreasing prices.

Following the 2004 earthquake and tsunami hundreds of international NGOs deployed to Banda Aceh to the north of Aceh Tamiang to supply humanitarian aid. The Tamiang district was not significantly affected by the disaster and so no additional trade or infrastructure was brought to the area.

In 2006 the biggest flood in the history of Aceh Tamiang struck and the area received assistance from agencies such as Islamic Relief and Save the Children from the UK.

KDA was established in 2006 with the general aim of local development following the flood, and it started to work on rubber as a vehicle to economic growth in 2008 when it was engaged as a partner by



The farming village of Alur Tani where the co-op is based.

# Arborists' Business

Swisscontact, a development advisory body formed by the Swiss private sector to promote economic and social development through advisory services, training and continuing education.

The initial assessment of the requirements of the farmers and the industry was:

- achieve replacement of the old trees with higher producing cultivars that are less prone to the indigenous pests and diseases
- develop solutions to pests and diseases
- establish access to the best quality seeds and seedlings

- increase knowledge and technical proficiency
- address the issues of low quality and low yield
- establish more direct routes to market and reduce the dependency on 'middle men'
- lobby local government to support this sector

Swisscontact ended their project early in 2012 and progress had been made. Developed groups had been formed, prices had improved, quality and yields had improved and the farmers had increased knowledge and technical skills.

Predictably, though, over time these groups deteriorated as prices became controlled by the middle men once again, and by the time we met KDA and the farmers, only one village was continuing to function in line with the improved model. This resilience was due to the local industry 'champion' Agam, who runs the farmers co-operative. The co-op gather the crop from the farmers in the area and achieve a better price by going directly to higher level buyers.

The co-op also run training workshops, establish research plots, produce seeds and produce transplantable root stocks.

The best way to explain the rubber process is in pictures:



Agam proudly shows us a root stock ready for transportation. We were surprised at the extent to which the roots had been trimmed and how the cut ends were treated with a tar-like liquid derived from the charcoal production process.



The root stocks are wrapped in banana tree bark to protect them on their journey to the plantations.



Preparing an established root stock for grafting.



The bud from the desirable cultivar to be grafted onto the strong root stock.



The grafted bud and the root stock wrapped in plastic tape for protection.



The business end of a rubber tapping knife; these are made locally from old vehicle suspension springs and are as sharp as a razor.



The first tap on a tree that has reached about 20 years of age. It is a single cut around 50% of the circumference of the tree.



The cuts are made early in the morning and this photograph shows the droplets of latex starting to run down the channel.



The latex will run freely for about 3 hours and it is collected in coconut shells. The heat and the sunlight eventually cause the latex to congeal and stop running. Another 1mm of bark will be removed the next morning and another shell load of latex will be produced.



# Arborists' Business



A couple of hours after the latex has stopped running it dries into the shape of the coconut shell and it can be collected.



The rudimentary method used by the farmers out in the old-growth plantations is to pack the 'lumps' into moulds which are simply unlined holes in the ground. The farmer stamps them down to produce a compacted bale. Notice the vines placed down the sides of the hole. These go right around the bale so that they can be used to pull it from the hole once it has set.



A bale of latex which has been pulled from the mould. This method of baling does not really contribute to the clean requirement of buyers, but out in the plantation resources are scarce and so they have to use what is freely available.



The co-op teach the use of woven nylon sacks as moulds to keep the latex clean.



A latex bale removed from the sack.



Nick translates the co-op's latest production records to try to get an idea of yields and the likely price at the market



The co-op attends to weighing the crop using a beam balance.

Upon our return to the UK we continued to discuss routes for the development of KDA and the rubber industry. We presented our recommendations to Saggaf as a written report and I have included some extracts below to illustrate the depth of the project and the work that will be ongoing for the foreseeable future.

*Over the course of our time with KDA we were introduced to the workings of the local community and the rubber industry. We also observed cultural influences as well as local factors that are likely to contribute to the success or failure of any business or social initiative.*

*... there is a requirement for the rubber farmers to produce clean, low moisture content rubber.*

*This requires the co-ordination of effort over a significant geographic area, education of the rubber growers and producers, knowledge of global influences and the ability to sell a quality assured product.*

*Although much progress has been made by the Farmers' Co-Operative, there are opportunities for further development which could be satisfied by an organisation such as KDA:*



# Arborists' Business



The route to market can be difficult. The bridge built by the Dutch many years ago is still standing, although it takes a little nerve to travel over it as the rotting beams crack and creak under a vehicle. The replacement bridge built by the Indonesian engineers is not quite so able to cope with the regular earthquakes and river flooding. Saggaf told us that this was the third time it had fallen into the river since it was built.

- We did not meet anybody in the rubber network that had a detailed knowledge of Indonesian or other significant standards that influenced the production and sale of rubber.
  - There is no ability to test the rubber prior to sale so as to ensure the highest sale price for a product whose properties are known.
  - There is no 'third party' certification of the weighing or quality of the rubber
- In our opinion KDA must:
1. Develop a robust corporate governance structure where decisions are made by a board rather than by a loose group of people. Elcoat Ltd would be happy to provide further guidance to facilitate this development.
  2. Develop a structure of financial accountability which would be likely to include the production of annual accounts statements and a report on progress and development by the board.
  3. Engage in a regular schedule of meetings with an agenda derived from the minutes of the last meeting and issues which have arisen since the last meeting.
  4. Become a recognised authority on all laws and standards (such as SNI 06-2047-2002 Banan Olah Karet) that affect rubber production and sale. The organisation must also develop a mechanism to ensure that it is aware of any new or changing legislation or standards so that the significance of the new or changed standard can be cascaded to the Co-Op and the rubber farmers.
  5. Understand the local, national and global rubber industry scene to a level of competence which will allow the provision of advice to government and lead to local and national government recognising and applying to KDA for advice. Working through the strategic business models detailed later in the report would facilitate this position.
  6. Develop the knowledge and capability to test and certify rubber prior to sale and to work with the Co-Op in ensuring that a quality assured product achieves the best market price and is not subject to price adjustment by untrustworthy buyers.
  7. Ensure that all test procedures are externally certified to ISO9001 so as to add credibility to the organisation and its processes.

It is also our opinion that developing an organisation with a certified, strong and accountable corporate and financial structure would enable the organisation to gain best access to the funding that is available to NGOs.

It was an absolute privilege to work with KDA, the co-operative and the farmers. Living in the little hut and meeting all of the wonderful people in the village was a fantastic experience which has changed our lives forever. Thank you so much to Saggaf for setting everything up for us and thank you to everyone we met for making us so welcome.

If any readers would like to undertake a similar expedition, to live in the hut, to teach English to the children and to help with the many development projects that are going on in the area, Saggaf would be very pleased to help. Drop me an email and I will put you in touch with him.

Paul Elcoat runs Elcoat Ltd who specialise in helping arb businesses get things right and achieve better contracts. Nick Hudleston is a Director of Elcoat Ltd and runs the engineering consultancy Lantern Davis. Matt George is an Associate of Elcoat Ltd and is an instructor and assessor for chainsaw and related operations.

Paul, Nick and Matt would be happy to take questions or comments from readers by email [info@pauelcoat.co.uk](mailto:info@pauelcoat.co.uk) or telephone 07800 615900.



**We help people just like you to grow their business using this not so secret formula:**

- Sort out the internal systems
- Achieve certification such as ArbAC, CHAS and ISO
- Find contracts and deal with prequalification
- Win contracts
- Increase turnover, reduce costs = more profit

**Elcoat** Ltd

Helping contractors achieve success since 2005

[www.elcoat.co.uk](http://www.elcoat.co.uk)

[info@pauelcoat.co.uk](mailto:info@pauelcoat.co.uk)  
020 7193 5611



## Acme Tree Services – new ArbAC

Deborah Evans of Acme Tree Services says, 'Mike and I started Acme in 2000. Four years ago I did complete the AA application form and pinned it to the noticeboard. However, there it stayed. Having a young family, Mike studying for a Tech Cert in Arboriculture and a continual busy flow of work stood in the way of us committing to be ARB Approved. Also, space was extremely tight as we were running the business from home. However, last year we found a barn with land and managed to buy it at auction. We moved the business there and thankfully our house is now a home again.'

'However, after 13 years trading, we still hadn't quite achieved our initial goal! Then

one of our local tree officers gave us the push we needed – we were delighted when she nominated us for the small business ARB Scheme. We attended an AA workshop which we found very useful and it gave us the opportunity to meet like-minded individuals who were also keen to improve their businesses.

'Paul Smith carried out our assessment in June – such a nice guy he put everyone at ease straightaway. It was a great day for the whole team and a chance to show and explain to him who Acme are and what we do – and to discuss what we think could be gained by being ARB Approved. Of course the best bit of the day, which we'd waited so long for, was when he congratulated all



the team and said those magical words: *Acme are now ARB APPROVED CONTRACTORS ... YIPPEEE!!!*



## Anderson Tree Care – new ArbAC and ISO Certification

Sheffield-based company Anderson Tree Care are delighted to announce their recent achievement of ARB Approved Contractor accreditation and ISO9001, 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certification. As arboricultural contractors and consultants, Anderson have been supplying a comprehensive range of tree care and vegetation management services to a variety of commercial and domestic customers in Sheffield and the surrounding regions for over 25 years.

Operations Manager Dave Robinson said, 'These schemes are nationally and internationally recognised and ensure that

compliant companies meet the needs of customers while meeting statutory and regulatory requirements related to their business. Achievement of these awards clearly demonstrates our ongoing commitment to the delivery of high quality, professional tree care and our desire to drive rogue companies out of the industry. It also gives our existing and potential customers the peace of mind that their trees are in the hands of competent, qualified arborists, who meet and exceed industry standards.' The company engaged Elcoat Ltd to assist in putting everything in place to ensure compliance with the requirements of ArbAC and ISO.



Dave Robinson said, 'The process of improvement up to this point has been hard but rewarding work. We now operate the business to model standards and with a bit more hard work, I am confident that, in line with our objectives, this will deliver financial rewards as well.' Anderson Tree Care can be contacted via their website at [www.andersontreecare.co.uk](http://www.andersontreecare.co.uk).



## Artemis Tree Services – new ArbAC

Simon N'jie of Artemis Tree Services says, 'If you ask any contractor whether they would like to be ARB Approved you will get a resounding yes.'

'Becoming an ArbAC has been an ambition of mine since being at Merrist Wood college in 1994, though back then I was more concerned with learning my craft and enjoying my 20s. After starting a family, long-term growth of Artemis became a priority which in turn meant more professionalism, proof of which is accreditations. The ultimate accreditation in my mind is ARB Approved, so I set about achieving it.'

'Early in 2010 I gave Paul Elcoat a call. I had been reading his articles in the Association's *ARB Mag* and he seemed to make sense. Paul came down to the office and we started the ARB Approved project. The subject of "appreciating assets" was discussed and this reinforced my thoughts that I should be developing a yard of my own rather than renting premises.'

'Shortly after our conversation I found an ideal property so I put the ArbAC project on hold while I dealt with buying and setting up Artemis' current yard. Earlier this year we picked up again where we left off. Artemis Tree Services was assessed in



April by Andy Poynter and passed. This is a great sense of achievement and would not have been possible without the help of various associates along the way including George Trapp, Chris Wallis and all of the hard working and dedicated team at Artemis Tree Services.'



## Eden Treescapes Ltd – new ArbAC

Eden Treescapes Ltd is a professional tree care company based in Cumbria, primarily covering the county and much of southern Scotland and northern England, but has experience carrying out operations throughout the UK. Whilst the directors Adam Hulme and Sam Barnes are both trained foresters and the majority of our work comes from management and maintenance in private and public sectors, we have gained many years of arboricultural experience.

Adam and Sam said, 'We are really pleased and proud to have achieved approved contractor status. We pride ourselves as a company in achieving and maintaining high standards and feel

this status rewards us for many years of investment in the business and personal development. The assessment day was somewhat intensive and Chris certainly put us through our paces, but receiving full approval at the end of the day made it all well worth it.'

ArbAC is something as a company we have been keen to achieve for a while. We wanted recognition for our commitment to an industry we feel passionate about and a means of raising the bar in our area. We also hope to be considered by clients and for contracts we may not have been able to tender for before and have already been contacted for tendering opportunities as a result of our inclusion on the AA Directory.



We intend to ramp up our marketing strategy to promote our business, and, being proud to be part of the Arboricultural Association scheme, will strive to promote awareness of the Association as a professional representative of the industry.



## Sheffield Tree Care Ltd – new ArbAC

Nick Boden of Sheffield Tree Care Ltd is delighted to have achieved ArbAC accreditation. He said, 'I have worked in the arboricultural industry for over 20 years now and hold this accreditation in high esteem.'

'It is a great personal and professional achievement, and I and the team have gained a great deal of confidence from it.'

Sheffield Tree Care Ltd is a small family-run firm based in Sheffield and South Yorkshire. It contracts on both a domestic and commercial basis for clients including Sheffield City Council.

Nick recognises the value of the process to become an ARB Approved Contractor. He said, 'As a small business our ethic has always been to provide a high standard of tree care to all our customers. But whilst we came to expect high standards of ourselves in tree care, our paperwork was lagging: we needed to improve it. The assessment helped us evaluate our practices both practically and professionally and with the advice of the assessor we managed to achieve the high standard that is required.'

The team would like to thank the assessor, Paul Smith, personally. Nick said, 'His



professional yet friendly manner meant that the day passed pleasantly. He provided a good deal of insight into the industry. As a result the team gained a lot of encouragement and confidence to continue practising at the high standard that we have come to expect from ourselves.'



### Tree Pests and Diseases – an Arborists' Field Guide

### Fungi on Trees – an Arborists' Guide

– fully illustrated, user-friendly, portable-format must-haves for arborists!

Find them in our online bookshop at [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)



**Congratulations to those who have recently become new ARB Approved Contractors:**

Acme Tree Services, Staffs  
Anderson Tree Care, Derbys  
ArbWales Limited, W Wales  
Beneficial Tree Care, W Yorks  
Countryside Training and Tree Management Ltd, Staffs  
Dave Ford Tree Services, Surrey  
Keighley Tree Services Ltd, W Yorks  
Ken Linford Garden Care Ltd, Lancs  
Mercer Tree Services, Essex  
Sheffield Tree Care Ltd, S Yorks  
Tom Richards Tree Services, Derbyshire  
West Coast Network Services, Wales



Taking nominations for 2013 now!



# GET ARB APPROVED **FREE**

**Should you be an  
ARB Approved Contractor?**

**Do you know someone who should?**

If you ...

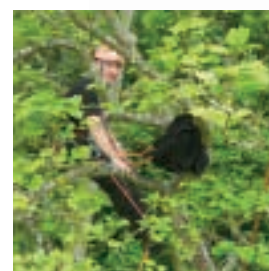
- undertake good quality tree care and competent work practices
- look after your customers
- comply with modern health and safety requirements
- work within the bounds of the law

... then why not go ARB Approved – **FREE!**

Every month, on a regional basis, the Arboricultural Association is giving away a free ('small' business) **ARB Approved Contractor assessment** (saving £495+VAT) and **two half-price assessments** (cost £247.50+VAT).



CONTRACTORS HEALTH & SAFETY ASSESSMENT SCHEME  
**Certification Mark**  
[www.chas.gov.uk](http://www.chas.gov.uk)



## Entry Rules

(summary only – for full conditions see [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk))

### Your business must

1. be nominated by a local authority tree officer
2. not exceed 5 people (including the employer)
3. have a competent Manager (with minimum of 5 years industry experience)
4. have appropriate insurance (inc. £5million PL)
5. have been trading for a minimum of two years
6. be assessed on the specified date.

Winners will be drawn at the compulsory workshop.

First prize: free assessment,  
second and third prizes: half-price assessments.

**NB** Annual scheme subs will still be payable plus  
£60 CHAS licence fee, if applicable, and any  
follow-up visits

## Areas and Assessment Dates

Directory Area	Nomination Closing Date	Workshop Date	Assessment Date
N. London / Home Counties	Mon 19 Aug	Thu 22 Aug	24–26 Sept
South West	Mon 9 Sept	Thu 19 Sept	22–24 Oct
South Central	Mon 30 Sept	Wed 2 Oct	12–14 Nov
South East	Mon 4 Nov	Wed 6 Nov	17–19 Dec
Ireland	Mon 9 Dec	Wed 11 Dec	14–16 Jan 2014

*All dates given are subject to change, please visit our website for up-to-date information.*

**Tree Officers: Nominate good tree surgeons in your area!**  
**Tree Surgeons: Get your Tree Officer to nominate you!**



## R2 update

**The team behind the new R2 tool provided an update on progress at this year's ARB Show. The workshop – which was well attended by arboricultural businesses, employers and learners – proved to be a useful forum for debate and discussion.**

The audience heard from Lantra's Industry Partnership Manager Ros Burnley, who said, 'R2 will allow you to upload evidence of your qualifications, then get someone to endorse it, so building up a CV is standardised.'

The register will be funded by an annual fee of around £30 for individuals, with discounts available for groups of employees.

Ros also discussed how the wider arboriculture industry should benefit from the system. 'This will improve career

progression and help to address the current problem of "experience drain" as ex-climbers leave the industry,' she added. 'It will also allow a firm to demonstrate the competence of its workforce.'

Sponsorship from Makita, Bartlett Tree Experts, CTC Recruitment, Beechwood Trees and Landscapes Ltd and Dartmoor Tree Surgeons has been vital. 'Without this support the vision and implementation of R2 wouldn't be possible, so we are extremely grateful for the support we have received so far,' Ros said. Sponsorship packages are still available.



The system will be piloted before being launched later this year.

Simon Richmond, Arboricultural Association Technical Officer – Training, and one of the eight-strong steering group driving the project, added, 'Our hope is that individual tree workers should benefit significantly from R2 – their needs have been front of mind during the development process. Employers will be able to use R2 as a tool to manage their employees' qualifications, training and skills.'

To follow the progress of R2, connect using social media



@R2\_Online



Register-of-Tree-Work-Operatives-R2



Register of Tree Work Operatives (R2)

## Arboriculture and Bats: A Guide for Practitioners

### Target audience: Arborists

This introductory one-day course for arborists, developed by the Bat Conservation Trust and the Arboricultural Association, will help you to carry out tree works with consideration to the potential effects on bats and their habitats. The course counts towards Arboricultural Association CPD requirements and participants will receive a Lantra Awards attendance certificate. Please note that this is a basic awareness course – it will not give arborists the knowledge and skills to carry out full bat surveys.

### Course content includes:

- Bat biology
- Bat ecology
- Bats and the law
- Potential tree roost recognition
- Where to go for help
- Emergency procedures
- Practical exercise

See  
page 66  
for course  
dates



Bat Conservation Trust



Bat Conservation Trust, Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane,  
London SE11 5RD  
Direct line: 020 7820 7165  
Helpline: 0845 1300 228  
Fax: 020 7820 7198  
[www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)



## AA Utility Arboriculture Group News

### UAG strategy supported by ENA

**Karl Lee, UAG Chair**

The UAG was recently invited to speak at the 24th National Energy Networks Association Safety, Health and Environment Conference held in Manchester. UAG Chair Karl Lee outlined the group's ambitions and frustrations in achieving the outcomes needed to move the industry and arboriculture forward.

The presentation revolved around the UAG Strategy outlined in previous editions of *The ARB Magazine*. With progress on the group's core activities going well, the presentation revolved around raising the profile and importance of arboriculture within the industry, and the need for all groups and associations to work together in order to maximise benefit.

The key messages delivered to ENA conference were that the UAG is proactively looking to bring the industry

and arboriculture closer together in order to provide a recognised career structure and broader opportunities for staff to gain additional skills in order to migrate into the electrical industry.

#### Health & Safety, Environment & Quality

With only two-thirds of electricity companies regularly contributing H&S figures, any conclusions drawn from the composite national data must be treated with a degree of caution. However, all companies have committed to supply figures in order to allow compilation of a national benchmark for H&S performance within the utility arboriculture industry.

#### Education & Training

Work on a career framework, including proposals for key roles and skills, is well advanced. The need to ensure that there is consultation with all electrical and arboricultural stakeholders was highlighted to the conference. Subsequently, dialogue will now take place with a number of



Karl Lee, Chair of the UAG, addressing the ENA's SHE conference.

representative industry groups and the AA during the coming months.

#### Industry Innovation

Those electricity companies that are fully engaged have started working on ways to improve working conditions for staff and develop operating procedures which will provide a safer working environment and offer efficiency gains through a greater degree of mechanisation and technical innovation.

#### Communication

The UAG is looking to standardise methods of communication within the industry in order to collate and make available industry information through a variety of media, which will allow easy access to safety and training learning points. We are currently looking at providing information on the three highest safety risk areas within the industry through the AA website.



### Safety – don't forget the basics

**Bill Goodall, UAG**

A review of the reports and Safety Alerts that are sent in to UAG reveals that injuries to qualified arborists come from a range of activities.

We know that at this time the accidents that have produced the most serious injuries are involved with:

- work at, and falls from, height; and,
- failure of structures, poles and trees.

Information on these events, the causes and the controls required has been well publicised.

The largest numbers of injuries reported are related to some of the most common activities we complete. These are:

- the use of handtools, particularly Silky saws and their equivalent;
- the use of hedgecutters for clearing vegetation on sites;



- injuries while walking on sites – slips, trips and falls from terrain and vegetation

The individuals involved are all trained and 'competent' in the work equipment being used.

The causes range from:

- rushing or an over-energetic approach to the work, to,
- not following the basic safety rules either as a result of bad habits (e.g. poor body positioning) or 'incorrect movement of the cutting head'.

In many cases the difference between an extremely serious injury and a minor injury is luck!

As we focus on the most serious events we should not forget the basics for safety:

- **Always follow the safety rules** – 'I didn't think it would happen to me' is one of the most common comments from those involved in an accident.
- **Remain vigilant and aware at all times** – 'I assumed ...' is a common comment heard during investigations: always assess every action, and its outcome, before you start.



## Pre-use inspection of fall arrest equipment

**Richard Brown, UAG**

**The electrical utility industry continues to see far too many incidents and accidents that relate to working at, and more specifically falling from, height.**

Having previously focused on the potential failure of the structure being climbed, we should also make more specific considerations of the working at height equipment commonly used in the industry, and the assumptions made regarding operational staff always having the correct training and knowledge of how to both use it correctly and carry out regular pre-use inspections of their own equipment.

The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) is commonly accepted as the starting point for most subsequent UK legislation and gives a general outline that all employees must be sufficiently trained and clearly instructed on their duties at work.

In terms of personal protective equipment (PPE), and fall arrest equipment more specifically, the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (1992) in Regulation 9.1 specify that employers must ensure that their employees are given adequate information, instruction and training in the correct use of any equipment issued. Under Regulation 10.1 the employer also has a clear obligation to ensure that PPE is used correctly by means of continued on-site auditing, even after they have been through the correct selection, instruction and training processes.

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) (1998) are usually

more associated with the inspection of lifting equipment within the utility industry. However, within these regulations there is a requirement which states that when equipment is exposed to conditions that may cause significant deterioration, it should be inspected at suitable intervals, and this will include an inspection each time it is exposed to any circumstance which might possibly jeopardise its ongoing safety or performance. In short, if there is a suspicion that equipment may have become damaged in use, have it immediately inspected.

Finally, the Work at Height Regulations (2005, Amended 2007) in Regulations 5 and 6 focus clearly on the adequate and suitable training of employees, and Regulations 12 and 13 outline the requirements for inspection of equipment being used for working at height.

The requirements for the inspection of fall arrest equipment have probably most clearly been laid out by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) document 'Inspecting fall arrest equipment made from webbing and rope', reference INDG367, first published in 2002. The background to this publication was a series of fatalities which were traced back to the ultimate failure of lanyards. Various manufacturers of fall arrest equipment were asked to supply webbing samples. These samples were given a static strength test under laboratory conditions when new. The webbing was then exposed to conditions in line with usual day-to-day use, as we would expect to see within the utility industry, and re-tested for strength. The results were relatively shocking. Exposure to the equivalent of four years'

UV radiation (sunlight) showed a reduction in the strength of samples of between 40–70%. The ingress of dirt into webbing samples on a repeated basis could reduce the strength of samples between 25–30%. A 1mm cut to the edge of a sample of webbing could reduce its strength by 20–25%, and by the time this is increased to a 4mm deep cut the strength would be reduced by 30–50% of the original values.

The document clearly defines the requirement for three levels of inspection of fall arrest equipment manufactured from man-made webbing or rope:

- Detailed Inspections
- Interim Inspections
- Pre-use Inspections

The **Detailed Inspection** is a formal, thorough visual examination of equipment to be carried out by a fully Competent Person, in line with the employer's written and published inspection regime. The maximum period of time permitted between Detailed Inspections for fall arrest equipment is 12 months, but currently within the utility industry in the UK it is generally reduced to at least every six months, based on the site conditions, frequency of use and potential inherent risks from the environments to which it is exposed. Some companies have or are making considerations of further reducing this regime to a three-monthly inspection of some or all of their fall arrest equipment, specifically pole choke devices. The Detailed Inspection must be formally recorded, and inspection reports maintained for the life of the equipment.

The **Interim Inspection** may be required if a risk assessment identifies a potential risk that could result in significant deterioration of a piece of fall arrest equipment before the next Detailed Inspection is due. If an



Interim Inspection is to be carried out, this again should be completed by a fully Competent Person, and the details of the inspection should be recorded and documented.

The **Pre-use Inspection** is the responsibility of the employee. This should be carried out by the user on each and every occasion that the equipment is used. The inspection should be a thorough visual and tactile examination of equipment, both looking and feeling for signs of damage. It is recommended that this type of inspection should be carried out in good light, and should take at least a few minutes to complete. There is no obligation for this level of inspection to be formally written down and recorded, but its purpose is to encourage field-based staff to regularly inspect their own PPE, and at the very least report and quarantine any piece of safety-critical fall arrest equipment which they suspect may not be fully compliant or may require a more formal inspection by a Competent Person.

The basic generic components of fall arrest equipment can be split into four simple categories: webbing or rope making up the overall structure of the item; stitch patterns or splicing as a

means of connecting this together; metal components or fittings; and connectors or adjusters. If a basic understanding can be gained of each of these components, with regard to the obvious signs of failure, then a reasonable Pre-use Inspection may be carried out. This type of training can be delivered as bespoke or tailored courses to field-based staff and can be completed in a relatively short period of time.

Webbing and rope should be checked for the most obvious signs of damage such as cuts, nicks and tears to its edges, abrasions to the surface fibres, and signs of fraying, thinning or fattening. Other signs of physical damage such as heat damage, excessive discolouration, chemical attack or elongation should be observed.

Stitch patterns can be individually checked to ensure they are clearly visible and are exactly identical on either side of a piece of webbing. Broken or abraded stitches should be identified, along with potentially loose stitch patterns.

Metal fittings, such as buckles, side D-rings on harnesses and three-bar slide webbing adjusters, can be visually examined for obvious signs of rusting or pitting to the metal surfaces, along

with any cracks, distortions or signs of excessive wear.

Finally, connectors such as karabiners and double-action snap hooks can be checked individually for functionality and free operation of their moving parts, along with any signs of misalignment or other defects in line with those listed in the inspection of metal fittings.

Finally, considerations should also be made of the correct means of storage and cleaning of fall arrest equipment. The guidelines as published by manufacturers of fall arrest equipment will always recommend storage in a cool and dry environment, away from direct sunlight and sources of excessive heat. Equipment should not be stored in a situation where it is subjected to any strains or pressure. It should always be dry prior to storage, and ideally it should be stored in an appropriate bag, box or cabinet. In general, the guidelines regarding the cleaning of fall arrest equipment recommend washing with nothing stronger than a very mild detergent, and rinsing thoroughly with fresh, clean water immediately prior to this. Products should be allowed to dry slowly and naturally, again without being subject to excessive external heat sources.



## Letters

### Dear Editor

**Firstly, with reference to my article regarding the large iconic copper beech in Montpellier gardens in Cheltenham (ARB Magazine 161, pages 23–25), I write to you to inform readers that the most recent pruning of this tree was undertaken by Cheltenham Tree Services (CTS) – a local Arb Association Approved Contractor.**

CTS have been working on behalf of Cheltenham Borough Council for approx 10 years, undertaking tree works in parks and open spaces, and also on Cheltenham's highway trees up until 2007 when management of the highways was devolved to Gloucestershire Highways. I apologise for omitting this information from the original article.

### **AA Approved Contractor lists and local authority recommendations**

Secondly, I am interested to explore how other local authorities manage their 'approved tree contractor' lists. In

Cheltenham, there are approximately eight tree work contractors – four are AA approved contractors and four are not. In our experience the quality of the work does not significantly vary between contractors, though naturally some contractors are better at some types of tree work than others. Generally, the contractors who have been on our own lists the longest are the ones who are not approved, whilst the newer companies tend to be AA Approved. As the majority of Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) tree work is sent out to tender, the profit margins of council work are likely to be slimmer than in the 'private' realm. However, the main advantage from a contractor perspective is the regular distribution of a 'known contractor' list to members of the public who enquire about reputable tree surgeons. Anecdotal evidence suggests that a significant proportion of a contractor's work is via the distribution of these 'known contractor' lists.

Whilst it would be easier to manage contractors who are always AA or Chas approved, it would seem somewhat churlish not to endorse other contractors



merely on the basis of their non-approved status. One contractor (Gaskins Tree Works) has been working on behalf of CBC since 1948 – as such, their knowledge of local trees, what is anticipated of a contractor's working methods, publicly sensitive areas, etc is priceless.

**Chris Chavasse**, Tree Officer,  
Cheltenham Borough Council

## Professional Committee

**Simon Holmes, Chair**

**The last meeting of Professional Committee (14 May 2013) said goodbye to the outgoing Chair, Jago Keen, and as incoming Chair I would like to thank him for his dedication and hard work since taking office in 2010.**

My election as Chair was undertaken in my absence as I was unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments. Mike Volp, a former Chair, kindly volunteered to take my place and committee member Sarah Kiss recorded the meeting.

It should be stressed that the members of PC are all volunteers and contribute considerable time and effort to the work of the committee. I would like to record my thanks to them through the pages of this magazine for their dedication, time and resolve. I look forward to working with them.

The meeting looked at a number of key areas, including the implementation of the 2013 Business Plan and the work streams committee members will lead on. These include:

- To develop and agree a liaison strategy to enable the Association to be best represented and to raise the voice of arboriculture.
- To review the existing benefits linked to categories of membership, ensuring these are appropriate and aligned to member needs. A survey relating to member needs has been launched and the PC and working group members have been involved in its development
- Working with Education & Training Committee to review qualifications for international Associate members seeking Technician membership. With a rising international membership, this is key to future growth.
- Developing, promoting and refining the Arboricultural Association Registered Consultants (AARC) scheme under the auspices of the Consultants' Working Group (CWG).

The last CWG meeting was on 18 June. The CWG remit is very broad and includes such things as training for the AARC assessor panel. This was undertaken by an external provider in February and further in-house training took place in June. Whilst much of the CWG meetings

has been taken up with the new scheme, the existing AARCs have not been forgotten and CWG is looking at how best to promote the scheme for existing members and make changes to the website to include information for aspiring RCs. The CWG is also looking at the range of training offered to consultants – whether RCs or not – and, through PC, working with Education & Training Committee to develop this further to meet the needs, promotion and development of the existing Registered Consultants list. Work on the new AARC application pack is ongoing and co-ordinated by HQ as a key piece of work identified in the AA Business Plan.

The complaints and appeal process has been under review for some time by PC and has also been considered at CWG. This is a major and vital piece of work and a draft of a new rigorous, transparent and timely process is almost ready. More about this in my next report.

Other issues at CWG included take up of the new RC scheme. Peter Annett (Lead Assessor) advised the meeting that a number of applications have been received and are currently being considered by panel members. If you are ready to take the plunge and would like more information, download the information pack from the AA website or chat to Paul Smith at HQ

The ARB Approved Consultant scheme continues to grow in reputation and popularity. The number of ArbACs stands at 217 as I write, with expected growth for this year well on track. Much of the background work is undertaken by Paul Smith, Mel Sutherland and Jess Palfreyman – well done to you and all at HQ.

Work continues on the new Fellowship application process under Mike Sankus

and Sarah Kiss. A first draft is being considered and I should be able to report more on this in my next *ARB Mag* article. One Fellowship application was considered and I congratulate Ian Lorman on becoming a Fellow of the AA.

One appeal against effective implementation of the old AARC application scheme has just been determined and the individual notified of the outcome. Any process involved in assessing complaints and appeals consumes a large amount of time at HQ, plus time that is given freely by those on the various panels. The new complaints and appeals procedure will streamline the process, speeding up the turnaround time, and I hope it will improve the integrity of the scheme for all involved.

There are currently three spaces on Professional Committee. If you would like more information on the work of PC or a nomination form, please contact HQ.

I sign off leaving you with this image – where is the root protection area?



**Advertise here – this space could be working for you!**

**Why not take advantage of exposure through the UK's leading arb body magazine?**

See [www.trees.or.uk/tree-care-advice/](http://www.trees.or.uk/tree-care-advice/)  
Advertising rates **for price details**

Contact:  
• [mel@trees.org.uk](mailto:mel@trees.org.uk) • 01242 522152  
for more details





## Education & Training Committee

**Robin Jackson, Chair**

**Now that the changes to the majority of arboriculture and related qualifications have taken place to meet the requirements of the Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF), the committee has spent considerable time working on developing an updated 'Careers in Arboriculture' leaflet. We are pleased to be in the final stages and hope to have the leaflet available in the near future.**

There are a wide range of current QCF qualifications and historic qualifications: given that the leaflet cannot cover everything, it was decided that it will focus only on current qualifications and will be primarily targeted at new entrants, parents, careers guidance counsellors and

those already in the industry looking for progression opportunities. Unfortunately, given the number of qualifications available, the leaflet is unable to be truly comprehensive, but the committee believes that the key qualifications have been included and that the leaflet will provide a valuable and helpful point of reference. Once it is published, the committee intends to work on a complementary document to map historic qualifications to current qualifications as closely as possible.

More recently, the committee has been working to establish clear strategic objectives which dovetail into the Association's Operational Business Plan. As part of this, the committee is currently examining the opportunities, costs and potential of e-learning, as

well as other possible mechanisms to support the development of both technical and business skills for Association members. This will form part of a short online survey which is being put together at The Malthouse, the results of which will be invaluable to help us move forward to support members. In addition, the committee is exploring a formal agreement with one awarding organisation with a view to the Association endorsing its range of arboriculture qualifications. We believe this will further strengthen the Association's influence and ensure that qualifications continue to meet the needs of our industry.

Attendance at committee meetings has been bolstered by some new co-opted members who have increased the breadth and depth of experience we have been able to draw upon. However, these continue to be challenging times for education and training, so we are hoping that any members interested in contributing to the work of the committee put forward nominations before the closing date on 31 July.



## Media & Communications Committee

**Peter Wharton, Chair**

**There have been many changes over the last year, specifically with the appointment of our CEO Karen Martin who has provided clear direction and, most importantly, a Business Plan for the Association, with an underlying strategy in relation to how the AA can continue to serve members, build relations with other organisations and achieve a clear set of objectives.**

Within the Business Plan, media and communication is seen as a key area, and we have now been allocated support. This is encouraging for both existing members of the committee and those who want to become involved in the future. The process of reporting the work of the committee to Trustees is now very simple and this means they are aware of the key role we play within the AA and the value of the committee's volunteers. This has been recognised in minutes of Board meetings where Media & Communications Committee has been given a pat on the back.

The committee's portfolios of work are:

**Social media:** This is led by Nick Beardmore who, with the help of Tiffany Prescott and Simon Rotheram, has managed to develop a stream of information on Facebook and Twitter, increasing both Likes and Followers throughout the year. Most recently we were able to offer a prize for the 1000<sup>th</sup> Like on Facebook.

**Publications:** Claire Nash has had the monumental task of working on contracts and agreeing a suitable resolution with TSO so that the AA can supply and take ownership of the Research for Armerity Trees series of publications. Her diligence and understanding of the contracts have been remarkable: I, Karen and all the team at the AA greatly appreciate her work on this. We hope to have the series back in print shortly and to fulfil the back orders. Thanks are also due to Martyn Thomas for his efforts on securing the deal with TSO and for his continued work in proofing and assisting Claire with the contractual work. With the assistance of Mick Boddy we have also been able to take supply of six Claus Mattheck books which can be purchased from the AA website. Thank you to Tiff and her work with IML on this and

the difficult task of looking at conversion rates.

**Members' benefits:** Ken Linford has been working on this portfolio, identifying current benefits and also looking at how they could be improved. Ken is now also assisting Professional Committee with this work.

**Website:** Two of the main projects on the website have been to make the homepage more attractive, with up-to-date information and events banners, and also to develop new Registered Consultants pages. The consultancy pages are now simpler to navigate. We have increased the number of individual pages for current and aspiring consultants, and most importantly we have provided simple information for the end-user, be that the public or companies requiring a consultant's service. I managed to sneak my way onto the Registered Consultancy Standards Day to present the new ideas for the website: there was virtually unanimous agreement to move forward with the new pages and directory.

**ARB eNews:** The idea of mass email has been further developed to include ARB eBulletins, which have been utilised to promote the ARB Show and this year's Conference. The system is a major step forward in our ability to communicate with members. If you are not receiving the eNews or eBulletins, please update your contact details with Mel or Tiff at HQ.



## Visit to the Quinta Arboretum Midlands and Northern Branches

Ben Bennett, Sarah Liddle and Tom Morrison,  
Midland Tree Surgeons

**On Wednesday 5 June 2013, 35 visitors – members of the Midlands and Northern Branches and non-members – were treated to a first-class guided tour of the Quinta Arboretum in the village of Swettenham, near Congleton, which was initiated by branch member Steve Coombes and led by Arboretum Curator and guru of nomenclature Rhod Taylor.**

The Quinta Arboretum, which is now managed by the Tatton Garden Society ([www.tattongardensociety.org.uk](http://www.tattongardensociety.org.uk)), was created by renowned astronomer Professor Sir Bernard Lovell next to his former family home and just within sight of his famous legacy, the radio telescope at Jodrell Bank.

Lovell developed the arboretum on former grassland, starting in 1948, but it required further extensions over the years to accommodate his growing collection. Lovell's ambition for the Quinta was inspired by the four volumes of W J Bean's *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*, with the desire to collect a single example of each tree or shrub wherever possible. There are reputedly over 800 species of trees and shrubs represented in the 28-acre arboretum, including over 75 species of oak. As a visitor, you are reminded of

Lovell's personal involvement throughout the arboretum, with a commemorative planting in recognition of Lovell's BBC Reith Lectures dating to 1958 and the golden avenue to celebrate his and his wife's golden wedding anniversary.

The arboretum is set within the undulating Dane Valley and wind exposure is a considerable constraint, particularly on the south-westerly boundary. The surrounding topography has been carefully considered in the arboretum layout, with occasional glimpses out to fine views, including the Dane Valley and to Jodrell Bank itself. Wind-break planting of trees around the arboretum boundary was essential to provide a sheltered environment to establish trees that were truly at the margins of their comfort zones. Areas of internal plantation woodland are also now established, providing further shelter and screening. Walking around the arboretum, it certainly felt as though it was much larger than it is and in part this is down to the meandering route with occasional vistas that pull in the wider Cheshire landscape.

Rhod, the only paid member of staff, and a few stalwart volunteers undertake the maintenance and arboretum management for the benefit of all those who visit.



The group walking in the dappled shade of the woodland with Rhod Taylor leading the tour. (Mick Boddy)



*Sorbus sargentiana*. (Mick Boddy)



*Quercus pyrenaica*. (Mick Boddy)

Recently, a number of the Lombardy poplars next to the Knights' Avenue, which lies very close to Lovell's former home, have been felled to allow more light into the area while reducing competition – a measure that has been carefully balanced against wind exposure.

One of the challenges Rhod encounters as curator is maintaining the diversity of trees represented in the arboretum in the light of Sir Bernard's original 'one of everything' principle, described by one of the visiting members as a 'child in a sweet shop mentality'. Inevitably, a number of the original trees have, at best, persisted, but have certainly not thrived. Other specimens are suffering as a result of being out-competed by more vigorous trees, especially anything near the Caucasian wing nut, which has attained an impressive size for its age.

Interpretation boards at the entrance include excellent information about the labelling system used at the arboretum, including the relevance and importance of botanical naming.

Midlands Branch donated a *Betula nigra* to mark the visit, for which a suitable planting location will be selected by Rhod over the next few months.

A potential volunteers' work group day was discussed for the autumn. Rhod would be most grateful for any potential volunteers to help maintain this exceptional collection of trees for future generations. For more information please contact Lesley Adams, Midlands Branch Secretary, at [lesley@sympiosis.gb.com](mailto:lesley@sympiosis.gb.com)





# High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013

**After a prolonged gestation period, Scotland now has its own High Hedges Act, thereby bringing it into line with the rest of the UK.**

Introduced as a Private Member's Bill by Mark McDonald MSP in October 2012, it was subsequently passed by Parliament on 28 March 2013, and received Royal Assent on 2 May 2013. The basis of the Bill is not new: former MSP Scott Barrie attempted to bring forward this legislation in 2002, without success.

The act broadly follows the model which has been in use in England now for some 10 years, and is seen very much as a tool of last resort in dealing with nuisance hedges. It is, however, broader in its scope than the English legislation. A late amendment changed the definition of a hedge to include all species of tree and shrub, and not only those which are evergreen or semi-evergreen. The act now defines a high hedge as one which 'is formed wholly or mainly by a row of two or more trees or shrubs, rises to a height of 2m above ground level, and forms a barrier to light'. Hedges at heights above the 2m threshold would not be said to be

'forming a barrier to light' if there are 'gaps' that 'significantly reduce its overall effect as a barrier'. Clearly, this has potential implications for our trees where the case is not clear cut, as conflict will inevitably arise as to when a row of trees becomes a hedge.

The legislation will be administered by local authorities, and applications will only be considered when neighbours have taken 'all reasonable steps' to resolve the dispute in line with local authority guidelines. As a last resort, a local authority will have the power to compel property owners to take action to resolve the issue with their hedge. If property owners fail to take action specified under the terms of the local authority's high hedge notice, the authority can itself take action to alter the hedge and recover the costs. This process is subject to an appeals mechanism, both for the complainant and hedge owner. The introduction of this legislation is obviously going to place a huge additional burden on hard-pressed local authority officers, especially in the first year or so as the initial influx of applications land on their desk.



**The world famous beech hedge at Meikleour. How would the act apply to this? (Paul Hanson)**

The Scottish Government is in the process of preparing detailed guidance for local authorities and the public, with a view to bringing the act into force in early 2014.

**Donald Rodger**



## ICF seminar Tree Health and the Landscape

**Several Scottish Branch members were present at this well-attended seminar in Stirling, which was hosted by the Institute of Chartered Foresters. Plant health and the increase in serious tree diseases are hot topics, and we were treated to two excellent speakers on these issues.**

Keith Sacre of Barcham Trees talked about trees as populations, rather than as individuals: tree groups deliver more benefits to the environment and to the ecosystem than do lone trees. Basing his talk partly on the findings of the iTree projects, he identified increased benefits in terms of water retention, temperature regulation, oxygen production, pollution control, habitat and so on.

We are all familiar with the host of serious pests and diseases that are making their way through Britain. Coupled with the uncertainties of climate change, newly planted trees will have to be even more robust than ever. It is timely, then, that the new British Standard on nursery and newly planted trees will focus in part on quantifying the health of the tree at the nursery (see Keith's report on the draft BS 8545 on page 47). It is currently the case that trees are visually inspected for poor health. However, trees can already be well on the way to necrosis and still look relatively healthy; the visual signs of ill health are at the end of the chain of stress, and recovery is unlikely.

Relatively new techniques have been

trialled by Bartlett's at Barcham Trees in Ely to quantify the health of a tree. These are chlorophyll fluorescence, electrolyte leakage and chlorophyll content.

Chlorophyll fluorescence is perhaps the most useful of these techniques; it is the measure of photosynthetic efficiency. Taking readings over several days can indicate whether a tree is recovering or dying. Glynn Percival is working on analysis techniques that can even use the data to pinpoint the cause of stress (herbicide, drought, etc).

Once a healthy tree has been purchased, how do we maintain its vigour? The most important part of the environment for the new tree is the soil. Especially in urban areas, the tree pit must be of an adequate size, with a suitable soil, around 45% mineral, 25% air, 25% water and 5% organic matter. The bulk density (measure of compaction) should be no more than 1.33. Irrigation may also be required, and there are several products that are suitable for this.

Finally, a top coating of mulch should be applied, to a diameter of at least 1m

and a depth of 5–10cm. Contrary to widely held belief, research has found that bark- or woodchip does not need to be composted, so fresh chip can be used as mulch. There is wide variation in success with different types of woodchip: hawthorn and cherry mulch returned twice the survival rate of beech mulch. This is probably due to the high sugar content of these woods: apparently the Japanese – who use sugar cane mulch – have known this for four centuries! Trials are ongoing

with salix to discover whether salicylic acid will act as a plant defence activator. (See Dr Glynn Percival's article on page 37.)

This was a well-presented seminar with lots of new and updated information on plant health and care. We need to act now to give our new trees the best chances of survival in an increasingly hostile environment. The research carried out by Glynn Percival and new guidance from Keith Sacre and others on the British

Standards committee are delivering the tools we need to make informed decisions about future generations of British trees.

**Mike Charkow**  
info@avtree.co.uk



To get the full picture on both these subjects, come and see Keith and Glynn at the AA's Amenity Arboriculture Conference in Exeter on 8–11 September. See page 7 for more details.

## Spring excursion to Balloch Country Park



The characteristic whorled needle arrangement on one of the many *Sciadopitys* found in the park. (Donald Rodger)

**The sun shone on the scenic shores of Loch Lomond for the Branch's excursion to Balloch Country Park on 25 May. A small but enthusiastic group enjoyed the warm spring weather for a tour round the parkland and its collection of specimen trees, ably guided by Tom Christian, the National Tree Collections of Scotland's project officer.**

Nestling on the southern shores of the loch, Balloch Castle and its surrounding designed landscape was originally laid out in the early 19th century by the shipping magnate John Buchanan. Much of the early planting was established around this time, with further developments and improvements by the Dennistoun-Browns when they acquired the property in 1851. In addition to a fine collection of large and mature parkland trees, a notable collection of conifers was established in the semi-formal gardens close to the castle and its walled garden. This includes a range of species typically found on Victorian

estates but also a few unusual specimens and a smattering of champion trees. It proudly boasts what is probably the most concentrated collection of *Sciadopitys verticillata* in Scotland, as well as some fine examples of *Abies procera*, *Araucaria araucana* and *Picea orientalis*.

The country park became the unwelcome focus of concern in November 2010 when the first incidence of *Phytophthora lateralis* in the UK was recorded on Lawson cypress. Prompt sanitation felling appears to have arrested the spread; however, the remaining population of mature cypress are closely monitored for any early signs of infection.

Balloch Castle was recognised as a country park in 1980. Extending to some 200 acres, it is a popular recreational facility for locals and tourists alike. This raises obvious issues regarding tree safety, and much discussion was had around this topic.

Whatever the weather, Balloch Country Park is well worth a visit and the scenery of Loch Lomondside never fails to disappoint. Once again, many thanks to Tom for being our knowledgeable guide for the day.

**Donald Rodger**



The expansive treescape on the shores of Loch Lomond. (Paul Hanson)



# National tree for Scotland

The Scottish Government is to undertake a consultation exercise to seek views on having a national tree for Scotland. The consultation will begin in September and run for three months.

The idea of a national tree first came from Alex Hamilton, a member of the public who brought his campaign to the Scottish Parliament's Petitions Committee.

Environment & Climate Change Minister, Paul Wheelhouse, said, 'We are very sympathetic to the concept of having a national tree, but want to hear what the people of Scotland think about the idea – and what their choice would be!'

'The designation of a national tree for Scotland would help highlight the significant contribution that trees, forests and woodlands make to Scotland – especially at a time when we are unfortunately facing a number of serious tree health problems.'

Forestry Commission Scotland will work with Scottish National Heritage to run the Scottish Government's consultation and identify the most popular species.



Would Scottish Branch members please send material for possible inclusion in *The ARB Magazine* to Mike Charkow, Arbor Vitae, 16 Westhall Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 4JQ or email [mike@arborvitae.co.uk](mailto:mike@arborvitae.co.uk). Branch members are advised that a copy of the current Committee Minutes and the Branch programme are available through the Association's website at [www.trees.org.uk/aa/branches/Scottish-SC.html](http://www.trees.org.uk/aa/branches/Scottish-SC.html). Any member who has a query in relation to either the minutes or the programme should contact Adam Riedi, Scottish Branch Secretary: 07866 479416 or [ScotSec@trees.org.uk](mailto:ScotSec@trees.org.uk).

## AUGUST

21 August

### Basic Tree Survey and Inspection<sup>1</sup>

Wokingham, Berkshire AA

Member: £100 Non-member: £160

## SEPTEMBER

8–11 September

### Amenity Arboriculture Conference

Exeter University AA

18 September

### Risk Assessment for Commercial Arboriculture<sup>4</sup>

Stoneleigh, Warwickshire AA

Member: £100 Non-member: £160

23 September

### Arboriculture and bats: a guide for practitioners

Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire BCT

Member: £160 Non-member: £165

Please book through BCT – see Notes below

## OCTOBER

2 October

### Getting to Grips with Subsidence

Wokingham, Berkshire AA

Member: £160 Non-member: £200

9 October

### ARB Approved Contractor Preparation Workshop

Seagrave, Leicestershire AA

Member: £50 Non-member: £50

15 October

### Tree Pests and Diseases Road Show

Rodbaston, West Midlands AA

Member: £60 Non-member: £70

16 October

### Basic Tree survey and Inspection<sup>1</sup>

Ashton Court, Bristol AA

Member: £100 Non-member: £160

21–23 October

### Professional Tree Inspection<sup>2</sup>

Ilminster, Somerset AA

Member: £400 Non-member: £460

28 October

### Arboriculture and bats: a guide for practitioners

Richmond Park, Surrey BCT

Member: £160 Non-member: £165

Please book through BCT – see Notes below

30 October

### Risk Assessment for Commercial Arboriculture<sup>4</sup>

Shuttleworth, Bedfordshire AA

Member: £100 Non-member: £160

## NOVEMBER

6–8 November

### Professional Tree Inspection<sup>2</sup>

Wokingham, Berkshire AA

Member: £400 Non-member: £460

13 November

### Arboricultural Knowledge

Stoneleigh, Warwickshire AA

Member: £100 Non-member: £160

21 November

### Tree Pests and Diseases Road Show

Ely, Cambridgeshire AA

Member: £60 Non-member: £70

## DECEMBER

4 December

### ARB Approved Contractor Preparation Workshop

Holmfirth, Yorkshire AA

Member: £50 Non-member: £50

5 December

### Basic Tree Survey and Inspection<sup>1</sup>

Stoneleigh, Warwickshire AA

Member: £100 Non-member: £160

11 December

### Risk Assessment for Commercial Arboriculture<sup>4</sup>

Ashton Court, Bristol AA

Member: £100 Non-member: £160

Please note: all prices are excluding VAT.

Additions to our programme of arboricultural training and events will be published when available on [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk).

## NOTES

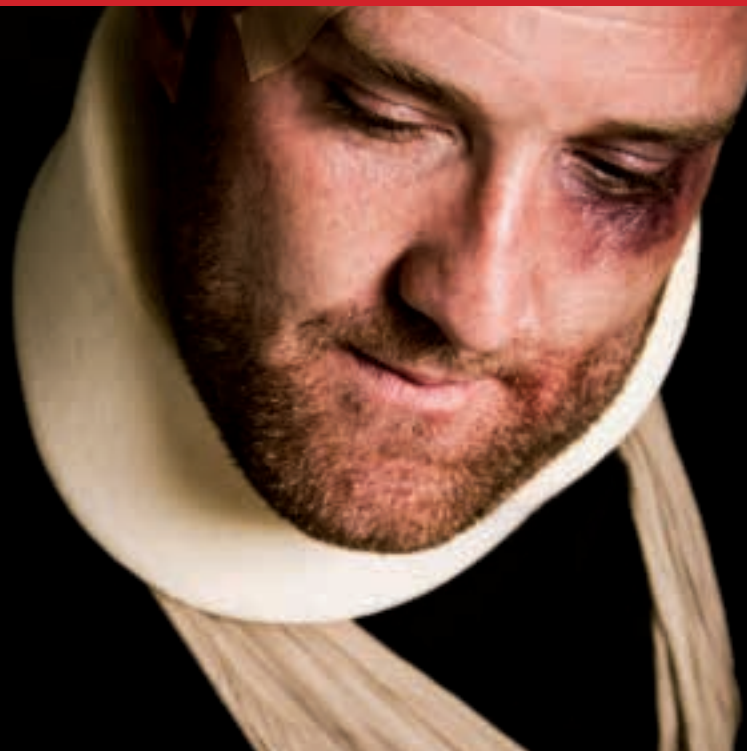
- (1) Denotes Lantra Awards accredited one-day course for people not experienced in tree inspections – see [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk) for details. Certificate of training issued.
  - (2) Denotes Lantra Awards accredited three-day non-residential course for experienced arboriculturists including exam-based assessment – see [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk) for details. Certificate of achievement issued if successful at assessment.
  - (3) Only available to people who have completed a Professional Tree Inspection course.
  - (4) Denotes course accredited by Lantra Awards and certificate of training issued.
- AA – booking form on AA website, [www.trees.org.uk/training-events/training](http://www.trees.org.uk/training-events/training) or phone 01242 522152  
BCT – book through David Sutton at Bat Conservation Trust, [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk), [dsutton@bats.org.uk](mailto:dsutton@bats.org.uk) or phone 0207 501 3638

# Personal Accident Insurance

Tree Surgeons,  
Forestry Contractors  
& Landscapers

“ I was a little  
dubious when I went to  
claim, but despite the  
short length of time the  
policy had been running,  
my claim was paid.  
I am impressed! ”

MR ELSON, SUSSEX  
*His policy paid out after being  
in force for just one day.*



- Covers working at any height and chainsaw accidents.
- Pays an income all the time you can't work.
- Claims paid out until age 65. Not just one or two years.
- Includes illness cover
- Cover from day one. No long waiting period for claims payment.
- Covers accidents at work and leisure. Can also include hazardous sports such as rock climbing and motor cross.
- Highly competitive premiums.

**0800 0431634 / 01732 363562**  
**[www.incprotect.co.uk](http://www.incprotect.co.uk)**

Insurance subject to underwriting terms and conditions.



*Note to diary*

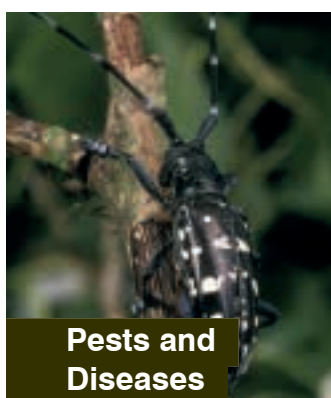
# The AA's 47th National Amenity Arboriculture Conference

## 'Managing the Urban Forest'

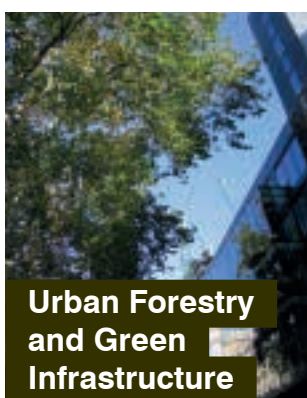


'An outstanding selection of  
national and international speakers  
presenting a global perspective'

**8-11 September 2013, Exeter University**



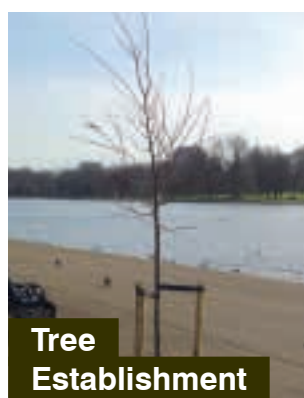
**Pests and  
Diseases**



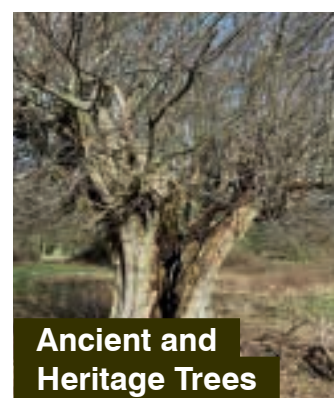
**Urban Forestry  
and Green  
Infrastructure**



**Tree Risk  
Management**



**Tree  
Establishment**



**Ancient and  
Heritage Trees**



**BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW.** Download a booking form @  
**[www.trees.org.uk/Amenity-Conference](http://www.trees.org.uk/Amenity-Conference)**

For more information see pages 7 and 8 in this issue.