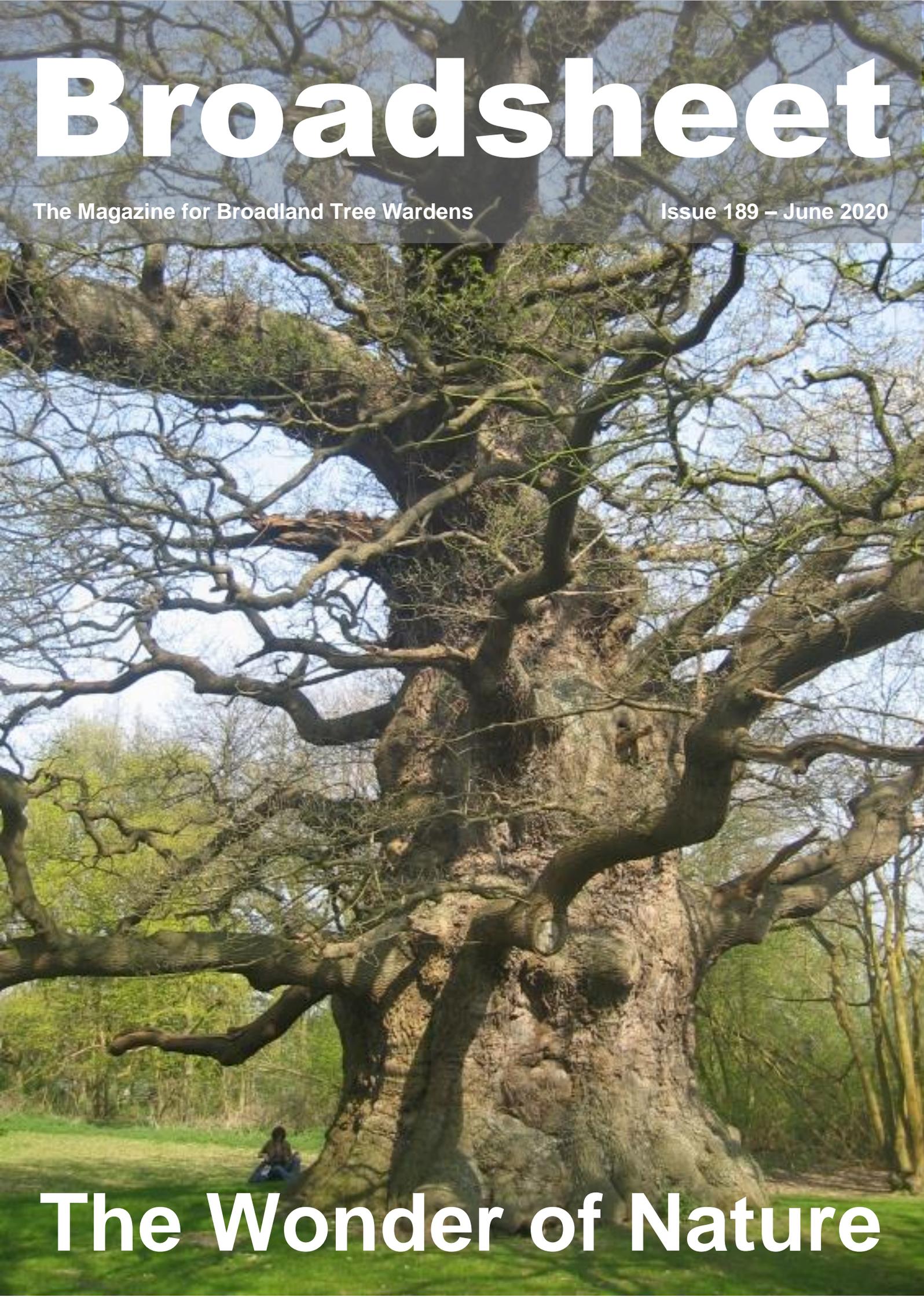


Broadsheet



The Magazine for Broadland Tree Wardens

Issue 189 – June 2020

The Wonder of Nature

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The Monthly Magazine for
Broadland Tree Wardens

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This Month's Cover Picture

"Majesty", the Fredville Oak, is seen by many as the most impressive oak in Great Britain. Some even think of it as the most impressive tree of any in the country. It is also it is one of the biggest oaks in the UK. It is around 800 years old.

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The Wonder of Nature

MY PARENTS taught me "that out of bad comes good" and I have to say that, if you look hard enough, that is usually the case. So in these challenging times of COVID-19 just what good can we find? How can we find good out of something that is killing so many innocent people and wrecking worldwide economies?

Last month we remembered the terrible events of World War II as Great Britain commemorated the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Out of those dark, challenging times came a victory over the Nazi tyranny that threatened to change the world.

I use the word 'commemorated' rather than the more commonly used 'celebrated' quite deliberately because I find it difficult to celebrate something that resulted in so many deaths ... and remember that the German nation suffered under the Nazi regime as much as the rest of the world.

So, just what good came out of it all? Closer links with our European cousins for a start, ending the many centuries of constant feuding ... or at least for 75 years or so!

Many scientific developments for wartime use were put to peacetime use with great benefits. So it will be with COVID-19. It will end eventually, although I am sure that we have yet to see the full cost, both human and financial. Some good will come from it though and, indeed, that has started.

Lesley and I have both reached that stage in life when eight hours a night's sleep (or more!!) is a thing of the past and we spend a few hours listening to night time radio. A few weeks ago though Lesley had the idea of getting up just before sunrise, making a cup of tea and then sitting in the back garden to watch the sunrise and hear the dawn chorus.

As you know, we have a small mature woodland at the rear of our back garden and I manage it for the benefit of wildlife and the environment in general. We have a healthy resident hedgehog population and we accommodate the grey squirrels. We have a great variety of birds and with our oak, beech, hornbeam, ash (but not for much longer), wild and bird cherry, sycamore, crab apple, field maple, silver birch and hazel ... to mention but a few ...it all adds up to nothing short of paradise.

We feed the hedgehogs each evening and the squirrels are always the first on the bird table each morning. Then the birds visit to eat their fill. They all give us such pleasure.

So as we settled down with our mugs of tea the first trace of daylight lightened the sky. In one of the large oaks the wildlife alarm clock ... a cuckoo clock (what else?) ... could be heard quite distinctly. That was soon joined by a second cuckoo some distance away. The two of them continued for some time.

They were joined by an owl, presumably in a neighbouring sycamore. Roughly translated the owl was saying "shut up you two, I'm not yet ready to go to sleep for the day!" Indeed, he was joined by a second owl. Very faint and some distance away but still clearly audible.

Oh, yes. This was going to be something special. It certainly beat listening to the depressing news about COVID-19 on the radio! Then there was that unmistakable snorting

sound of the hedgehogs in the woodland. They do sound grumpy little things and they make a great deal of noise rustling through the undergrowth as they return to their nesting site. Oh how we adore them and how cute they are.

They normally tolerate us standing a couple of metres from them as they feed from their bowls each evening at dusk. They seem to know that Lesley won't put the food out until the magpies have gone to bed for the night.

Snorting away they come through the hedgehog holes we've made for them in the fence concrete gravel boards. Then, when they've had their fill (ie the bowl is completely empty) they scurry off at such a pace for such small creatures.

Gradually the birds wake up. Blackbirds, starlings, finches, tits, robins, collared doves and pigeons. Before we realised it we were surrounded by a cacophony of sound. A bird orchestra. An opera of bird song. It was wonderful.

When laying in bed listening to the radio, the time passes so slowly. Well, you can't get up before 06:00 really, can you? However, sitting there in our garden at the edge of our treasured woodland the dawn chorus came and went so quickly.

I made a note of how long the whole exercise had taken. The moon had travelled about 2 m along the branch of one of our wild cherries while we had been sitting there and it had been a privilege to experience it all.

WRITING on www.bbc.co.uk, Roger Harrabin, the BBC's environment analyst asked if the COVID-19 crisis could spur a green recovery.

The COVID-19 lockdown has cut climate change emissions for now but some governments want to go further by harnessing their economic recovery plans to boost low-carbon industries. Their slogan is "Build Back Better", but can they succeed?

Harrabin wrote that he had just had a light bulb moment. The feisty little wren chirping loudly in the matted ivy outside his back door told him something important about global climate change, because intertwined with the melodious notes of a robin, he could actually hear its song clearly.

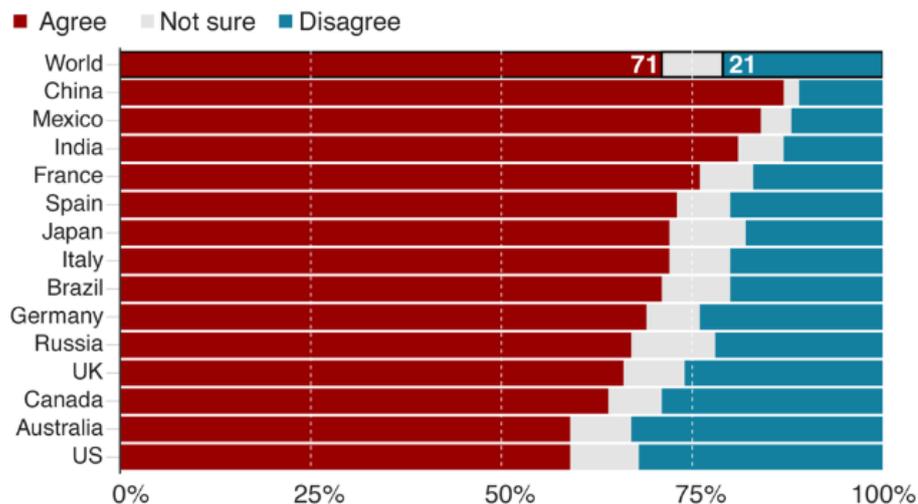
Normally, both birds are muffled by the insistent rumble of traffic, but the din has been all but extinguished in the peace of lockdown. The drop in traffic is a major contributor to the fall in planet-warming CO₂ emissions we've witnessed globally.

Before the COVID-19 crisis we accepted the dominance of traffic noise as an inevitable consequence of city living. Now, we have sampled an alternative urban ambience.

Governments currently face a stark choice: bail out polluting businesses, using that as leverage to impose environmentally-minded reforms, or let them return to their carbon-intensive activities as an economic quick fix.

Most people think climate change is as serious as coronavirus

Percentage of people who agree that, in the long term, climate change is as serious a crisis as Covid-19



Source: Ipsos MORI

BBC

However, many members of the public have little desire to return to the state of affairs before lockdown. In a poll, a fifth of members of the motoring group the AA, said they would work more from home in future.

This has implications for the UK government's £28bn road-building programme which assumes that traffic will rise by 1% per year - a conjecture that now looks unlikely.

The stay-at-home trend will be offset somewhat by nervous public transport users shunning trains for fear of infection and by long-distance commuters who might decide that if they only need to visit the office three days a week, they'll buy a home even further away.

The AA, which for years has been seen as the voice of motorists, has asked the government to think again about its £28bn road expansion. Its president, Edmund King, has suggested the money would be better spent on improving broadband

Another likely winner from the crisis is the movement fighting to turn city streets over to pedestrians and cyclists. This has already happened in places like Paris, which is rolling out 650km of "corona cycle-ways", and Milan, which has a programme to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists.

The determination to seize the moment for environmental change stretches further than the transport sector.

The UK is one of several nations looking to reboot its environmental strategy by calling in favours from private industry. After all, it was government which bailed out employers when the crunch came in March. The catchphrase is "Build Back Better".

However, it would seem to face a direct challenge in the shape of China and the US. The economies of both these superpowers have been savaged by the effects of coronavirus. They are desperate to get back to pre-virus levels of output, so their leaders may think the surest means of doing so is through tried and trusted climate warming fossil fuels.

For those seeking a greener way out of the COVID-19 slump, renewable energy will help, along with electric vehicle charging points and broadband.

Frans Timmermans, vice president of the European Commission, is on the same track. He is leading work on a Green Deal to make the

EU's economy sustainable and says that not a single Euro should be spent propping up old, dirty industries.

All COVID-19 recovery investment should go towards commerce that either helps reduce carbon emissions or promotes digital business, he insists, but some MEPs from parties on the right warn that the pandemic will have "far-reaching" economic and social consequences. They insist the EU must scale back its pre-crisis climate ambitions.

That's led some governments, like Germany and the UK, to offer hand-outs to polluting industries without imposing green conditions.

In the UK, the issue is causing contortions among politicians torn between saving existing jobs and conserving the planet. MPs from the Liberal Democrats - thought of as one of the "greenest" UK parties - have joined other parliamentarians in demanding a conditional rescue for the airline industry.

They say that if ministers don't step in, tens of thousands of jobs will be lost, but the firms should promise to off-set their emissions by, for example, planting trees.

Off-setting is hugely contentious. Doug Parr, chief scientist at Greenpeace, argues: "Any government bailout should focus on workers, not the industry itself. It should be conditional on the industry agreeing to shrink until - if ever - low-carbon technology is available - which isn't now."

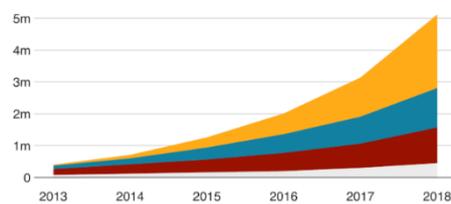
That begs a question: which industries should qualify for support? Should cash go exclusively to self-evidently green sectors like solar power, or to dirty firms trying to clean up?

Take the fossil fuel firms that pay our pension dividends by drilling for the stuff that's over-heating the world. The UK's oil and gas

Electric cars are becoming more popular

Electric cars in selected countries

China Europe US Other



Source: International Energy Agency

industry warns that 30,000 jobs could be lost because of the pandemic and the current low oil price, but why would governments support a commodity that's fuelling the climate crisis, which is judged by the UN to be deeper than the COVID-19 crisis?

Perhaps it's not that simple. Lord Stern, the former Treasury chief who's now a climate expert, told me each firm should be judged on its trajectory, not on its current state.

"The oil and gas industries are producing stuff you want to run down very quickly," he said. "But you do see some companies like BP and Shell which are declaring they are moving in a direction where they want to be going zero carbon. So, you can't be indiscriminate or dogmatic. You have to look where the industry is going."

At least UK environmentalists are dealing with firms that agree on the need to tackle climate change.

In the US, some fossil fuel firms have been determined to pursue government bail-outs without strings binding them to a less polluting future.

The Democratic Party has a long-standing proposal for a "Green New Deal" to promote clean technology, but President Donald Trump has minimised the importance of climate change. He has promised to help struggling fossil fuel firms, although his efforts have not taken root in a major way.

He tweeted: "We will never let the US Oil and Gas Industry down. I have instructed the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Treasury to formulate a plan which will make funds available so that these very important companies and jobs will be secured long into the future."

Then there's China. In 2015, its leaders were persuaded by President Barack Obama to make major climate change commitments as part of the Paris climate agreement. Since then, China has suffered job losses and fuel shortages. Beijing has resorted to a quick fix for the economy by building coal-fired power plants.

The green think tank Global Energy Monitor says the number of plants China approved in the first three weeks of March 2020 - equivalent to 7,960 megawatts (MW) - was more than the number agreed in the whole of 2019 (6,310 MW).

That doesn't take into account China's estimated \$1 trillion investment in its "Belt and Road" initiative to build huge, carbon-intensive infrastructure projects across developing countries.

Unless China and President Trump change their spots (or the Democratic candidate wins the US election), Europe's Build Back Better campaign won't be enough to protect the increasingly fragile climate, even if it does engineer a green recovery.

Furthermore, we have a lesson from history. Nick Robins from the London School of Economics (LSE) estimates that in the global financial crisis of 2008 just 16% of global stimulus plans were green, mainly because China invested massively in fossil fuel projects.

He said: "If we have any hope of combating climate change, we must make absolutely sure we do it better this time."

Coronavirus: Transport usage will change after lockdown

In a separate article Roger Harrabin reported that the number of people using public transport in Britain's cities could be 20% lower than normal after the end of the coronavirus lockdown.

In London, commuters using buses and tubes could fall by as much as 40% from pre-

lockdown levels. Rail use could drop by 27%, a poll for transport consultants SYSTRA has found.

The survey results capture people's current attitudes about returning to work, but some changes may be carried on into the long term.

The results are bad news for the government, which wants more people to use public transport to cut emissions that are fuelling climate heating. It could lead to more people driving to work. It's also challenging for public transport operators, which will face a sharp drop in income until public confidence returns.

However, the survey offers a glimmer of good news too. It suggests that of those expecting to reduce their use of buses and trains, 24% said they plan to work from home more, which will reduce emissions. They said they wanted to save on the commute time and cost, and to strike a better work-life balance.

There's a major boost for video-conferencing, too. As many as 67% of people in the 1,500-strong survey said they believe virtual meetings will replace some or all business trips or meetings.

Katie Hall from SYSTRA said: "Our climate emergency has not been cancelled. There is no doubt that this situation has opened up different ways of working for many, but if people start rejecting public transport over the car for work and leisure trips - that's a massive step backwards. Public transport operators must rise to this challenge."

She said public transport operators must work hard to convince commuters that they'll be safe from the virus, but she also said transport planners would need to think hard about how travel patterns may change permanently after lockdown.

I HAVE no doubt that Chris Packham regularly listens to the dawn chorus and values the experience greatly.

In an e-mail sent to supporters of Stand For The Trees, Chris wrote the following.

It's spring. Nature is thriving. Even more so as we observe Covid-19 guidelines to protect us all, especially essential workers, like the heroes of our NHS.

So it's criminal that HS2's construction is also deemed essential ... and it's heart-breaking to witness HS2 destroying irreplaceable ancient woodlands full of nature - including nesting birds, active badger setts and swathes of bluebells - at a time when they should be protected. It's unbelievable, horrific and it must end.

Boris took Johnson full advantage of the platform he shared with Sir David Attenborough in February when he declared:

'It's only by repairing the damage to the natural world and restoring the balance between humanity and nature - which is now so grotesquely out of kilter - that we can address the problem of climate change.'

Yet the following week Boris betrayed Sir David and all of us by approving HS2, giving permission to destroy almost 700 wildlife sites - including over 100 ancient woodlands, to emit excess carbon emissions for over 120 years when we have just 30 years to achieve Net Zero ... and that doesn't even include the massive airport expansion HS2 is designed to enable. Continuing with HS2 is utter madness in the face of the Climate and Ecological Emergency our Parliament declared just a year ago. The UK government will look like hypocrites in front of world leaders at the next global climate summit they are co-chairing, COP26.

On top of this, the new full business plan used for HS2 to justify the go-ahead from the government didn't even take into account the effects of Covid-19 on the future of travel. It's clear that more of us will work from home and that a far better investment would be high speed broadband, not HS2.

To top it all off, HS2 even wrote-off the £9billion of costs they'd spent to date in order to make its cost of £100billion+ look feasible. It didn't work. HS2 is rated a 'poor' investment, even without the effects of Covid-19 factored in.

Experts estimate HS2's cost is already £250million a month and set to rise dramatically. At this critical time in history, we all know our money could be far better spent elsewhere, like protecting our NHS, restoring nature and supporting the most vulnerable.

As I stated in last month's editorial, scrapping HS2 now will not only save over 100 ancient woodlands but the money we shall save can help re-pay cost mounting financial costs of Covis-19.

So please do it now. Support Chris Packham. Support Stand For The Trees. Support our ancient woodlands. Support our environment. SUPPORT OUR FUTURE!!

I N this edition of Broadsheet you will find the final agreed notes on the Tree Warden Advisory Group meeting I attended in Birmingham on 3 March.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that you read these carefully to ensure that you are aware of what we have agreed and what you can expect in the coming months.

If you have any comments or concerns then please contact me as soon as possible in order that I may convey them to the group. Alternatively/ additionally, should you wish to discuss any points with me then please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Following on from those agreed noted you will find the agenda for our next meeting to be held on 17 June. Due to the restrictions placed on meetings as a result of Covid-19, the meeting will be held via a Zoom video call.

Again, if you have any comments or questions you wish to raise then please contact me as soon as possible in order that I may raise them at the meeting for you.

KEVIN MASON, my deputy on the Tree Council's Advisory Group and the co-ordinator of the Epping Forest Tree Wardens Network, recently told me of some problems they have been facing during the COVID-19 lock down.

The City of London Corporation have asked the Network to look out for mountain bikers in the forest destroying habitats. In particular they have found trees cut down and holes dug to create jumps on unofficial tracks created by mountain bikers.

Why on earth do people have to be so thoughtless and downright selfish? Epping Forest is a wonderful place and you can use your bike without destroying precious habitats.

In the days before lock down it was chaos in the forest. The roads were impassable with parked cars and people congregating in the hotspot areas. As a consequence all of the City of London Corporation and Lee Valley car parks have been closed and the City of London has placed logs along the roads either side of the car parks to stop people parking.

Again, how selfish can you be? I want to park my car here and that's all that matters appears to be an all too common attitude.

I WAS delighted to read a report on www.reuters.com that Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrisons and Marks & Spencer were among more than 40 companies to sign an open letter here urging Brazil's national legislature to reject the proposed bill, backed by President Jair Bolsonaro.

The letter said the law would encourage "further land grabbing and widespread deforestation" which would endanger the survival of the Amazon, the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, and the rights of indigenous communities.

"We believe that it would also put at risk the ability of organisations such as ours to continue sourcing from Brazil in the future," the letter said.

Brazil's lower house speaker, Rodrigo Maia, earlier said he would introduce the bill on the floor of Congress on Wednesday for a potential vote.

Settlers in the Brazilian Amazon have for decades laid claim to public land without official government sanction, often clearing forest to grow export crops such as soy or raise cattle.

The proposal before Congress - known as "land regularization" by the agriculture lobby and "the land speculation law" by environmentalists - will make it easier for those that settled on public land historically to obtain deeds for their properties, under certain circumstances.

Supporters of the bill say that legally titling the land is an essential step towards forcing owners to comply with environmental laws to limit deforestation in the Amazon.

Environmentalists say the bill would effectively reward land speculators for massive illegal deforestation carried out in the past, while opening the floodgates to further clearing and settlement of public forest land.

Amazon research institute Imazon estimates the bill would hasten the deforestation of 11,000-16,000 square kilometres (4,247-6,178 square miles).

After intense debate in Brazil, the bill has been substantially diluted relative to the original, including removal of a provision to allow more recently occupied properties to apply for deeds.

Nevertheless, signatories to the letter, which included agribusiness companies and investors such as Sweden's AP7 pension fund and Norwegian insurer Storebrand, said they were "deeply concerned" about the proposed bill.

"We urge the Brazilian government to reconsider its stance and hope to continue working with partners in Brazil to demonstrate that economic development and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive," the letter said.

T HAT's about it for my personal ramblings for this month. As always, I will welcome any comments you have to make about them ... or any of the articles in Broadsheet.

Whilst COVID-19 continues to restrict our activities, it doesn't prevent us planning projects for the time when we move to the new "Normal".

Stay safe everyone.

John Fleetwood

'It's Good for the Soul': the Mini Rewilders Restoring UK Woodland

*An article by Patrick Greenfield and Phoebe Weston
published on www.theguardian.com*

TAMARA and Steve Davey cannot help but grin at the suggestion they are “miniature rewilders”. Standing proudly in the weak sunlight on the fringes of Dartmoor national park, the full-time grandmother and taxi company owner delight in their eight-acre woodland. Robins, tits and siskins chortle in the trees. Nightjars are welcome visitors in the summer. Seven bat species have been recorded in their small plot. There’s a badger’s sett somewhere in the hillside scrub and the couple feel at peace.

“It’s good for the soul,” says Tamara, speaking before the coronavirus lockdown. “It’s one of the best things we’ve ever done,” Steve agrees. “If we can make a difference and help what’s here, I’ll be happy.”

The Daveys are not wealthy landowners planning to rewild vast parts of the countryside, but the couple, along with thousands of small do-it-yourself woodland owners, could play a vital role in restoring parts of the UK to nature and increasing the rare forests that cover just 13% of the country.

Nearly 75% of the 3.19m hectares (7.88m acres) of remaining woodland in the UK is privately owned, with more than 90% of plots in England smaller than 10 hectares (about 25 acres). Standing in the Daveys’ small wood, it is hard not to get carried away by visions of what might happen if a nation of gardeners turned their hands to forestry.

“Being among it and just listening to the sounds of nature is priceless, really and you’re expanding your knowledge. You’re learning about different things all the time,” Steve says, expressing his love for summer evenings in the forest after a day driving his taxi. “We didn’t have any formal qualifications in land management or forestry. I’ve had a keen interest in wildlife all my life but, yeah, it’s enriching.”

The couple bought their piece of land through Woodlands.co.uk, which sells all kinds of plots – from one acre to more than 20 – at about £10,000 an acre, from the Highlands to rural Cornwall. Many owners buy their land to help promote biodiversity and reverse the effects of poor woodland management. The Daveys are no different.

Six years before they purchased their plot in 2018, the woodland was clear-felled and replaced with more than 2,000 non-native Sitka spruce, which are commonly grown in commercial plantations in the UK and are poor for biodiversity. Tamara and Steve have begun the daunting task of replacing the fast-growing conifer with sweet chestnut, birch, oak and native hedging to support wildlife, adding the occasional pool and clearing for bats and amphibians.

“In providing new habitats and new species, I think that’s achievable. The insects, the invertebrates, they’ve got to be catered for. If



you haven’t got those, then the whole ecosystem is not so healthy. Having the grass areas, the ponds, they’ll create a huge amount of wildlife,” says Steve.

After the Second World War, agriculture became more intensive and the widespread availability of plastic meant that less wood was needed to make furniture and tools. Many woodlands that were previously looked after were left to their own devices and now it is estimated that just over 40% of UK woodland is either unmanaged or undermanaged.

Management often mimics natural processes such as storm damage, which creates areas of wildlife-rich dead wood. Coppicing on a 5- to 20-year cycle allows light to reach the forest floor. Before humans, large grazing animals such as bison would have browsed forests to maintain areas of low growth. This mix of dead wood, healthy trees, saplings and open spaces creates a rich mosaic of habitats.

“A well-managed woodland is more likely to have greater biodiversity than an unmanaged woodland. The basic principle is that allowing light in attracts all sorts of tiers of biodiversity,” says author Robert Penn, who bought a cottage

enclosed by trees on the edge of the Black Mountains in Wales 17 years ago.

The 2.5-acre wood was previously owned by a couple who had little interest in woodland management and it had grown dark and unwieldy. Unlike the Daveys’ wood, Penn’s plot was mainly native trees that had been left to run wild.

He opened up his tiny woodland by coppicing and thinning out weaker trees to let in the light. Woodland flowers which can lie dormant for decades started to flourish and the plot is now peppered with wood anemones, stitchwort, celandine, primroses and wild garlic.

These spaces also provide sanctuary from the modern world. “The woodland is absolutely fundamental to my existence,” says Penn, who is patron of the Small Woods Association. “This morning, for instance, I was in my woodland and it was incredibly beautiful. Wildflowers are just starting to come up, trees are about to bud, the wood is absolutely packed with birds. It’s splendid.”

Several wildlife trusts in the UK have reported increased interest in people wanting to buy land for tree planting, landowners wanting advice on carbon offsetting and communities

starting tree-planting schemes. Aside from the wildlife benefits, small woods provide important ecosystem services such as reducing air pollution, locking carbon into the soil and temperature regulation. These benefits are worth hundreds of millions of pounds, according to analysis by the Office for National Statistics.

Penn's one tip to fellow forest owners is to be patient, because managing woodland is a long-term project. "It was five years before I felt the wood was genuinely my own ... and a decade later I'm absolutely confident I'm doing the right thing and I take immeasurable pleasure out of the whole thing."

In Tortington, West Sussex, Julie and Tony Upson manage 4.5 acres of ancient semi-natural woodland. Hazel trees dominate but a majestic veteran yew stands proudly and the former palliative care nurse and city law firm facilities manager are trying to encourage the heather back on a former heath.

The couple adore the dormice that live in their woodland and credit their small forest with giving them a vibrant retirement where they spend lots of time together and bond with a community of other foresters.

"We do wish we'd done this earlier but we didn't have the money," Julie says, adding that

the forest helped her cope with cancer treatment.

"It does give you the opportunity for unusual birthday presents. I bought Julie an axe one year and her friend thought it was a really bizarre present!" says Tony.

To others who might want to turn their hands to managing woodland for biodiversity, the couple have one message: "Go for it."

"We're not owners, we're custodians of this bit of ground and these trees. Everything we do is not for us, it's for future generations and for the planet," says Tony.



Crimes Against Woods and Trees During Lockdown

An article by Jack Taylor, lead campaigner - ancient woodland

THE term 'silver linings' feels a strange one to use in these times. Nevertheless, there is one that really sticks out – the nation is well and truly embracing the natural world. With the current lockdown restrictions, more and more people are choosing to visit their local green spaces, whether that's a wood, country park or a ramble around the fields. It's wonderful to see the public so warmly appreciating these places.

Unfortunately, it appears that the lockdown is possibly being used to hide nefarious deeds. Of late we and the Forestry Commission have seen an increase in reports of illegal felling of trees and woods.

Perhaps it's simply a case that more people are out and about in green spaces and noticing felling works more, or perhaps some people genuinely are taking advantage of the lockdown and reduced scrutiny. In any case we want to get to the bottom of it while providing you with some advice on what to do if you think you've come across a tree or woodland area that you believe may have been unlawfully felled.

Tree Preservation Orders give protection to a specific tree, group of trees or whole woodland by local planning authorities as a means of preventing deliberate damage or destruction.

This might include felling, lopping, uprooting or other forms of wilful damage. Anyone hoping to fell a tree or wood protected by a TPO will first need to seek permission from their local planning authority (LPA) or face the threat of prosecution and costly fines.

If you come across a felled tree or wood, then you should contact the tree officer at your local LPA and enquire whether a TPO was present. If not, then the tree officer should be able to take appropriate action.

When a landowner is looking to cut down trees, it may be the case that they require a felling licence from the right forestry authority to do so.

There are some exemptions to when a felling licence is needed and other matters to consider, all of which can be found via a useful [guide on the gov.uk website](#).

If you suspect that someone has illegally felled an area of woodland without the appropriate permissions then you should report the incident to the Forestry Commission in England, Scottish Forestry and Natural Resources Wales, who can prosecute parties involved and issue restocking notices where trees have been wrongly felled.

If you come across felled trees or woods you might be rightfully concerned about potential impacts on wildlife, particularly nesting birds. Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, it's an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird
- take or destroy their eggs or nest
- damage a nest, while that nest is in use or being built.

The responsibility of investigating wildlife crime falls to the Police, with all forces across the UK having a Wildlife Crime Unit. The RSPB has information on [how to report wildlife crimes](#).

Local planning authorities will typically have a planning enforcement team, whose responsibility it is to investigate breaches of planning law.

If you suspect a landowner has felled trees and erected a development without permission, or undertaken work outside of given permissions, then contact your LPA and report the incident to them. They may be able to issue a temporary stop notice and take further action against the guilty party.

All of the above leads us on to one of the hottest topics in the movement to protect woodland from destruction: HS2.

Works are currently underway along the Phase 1 section of HS2, the bit between London and Birmingham. This spring has seen the very first ancient woods being chopped down in

Warwickshire. It is devastating to see these works happening at all, never mind them happening at the most inappropriate time of year possible.

While we are limited in what we can do on the ground at the moment, please be reassured that we're working tirelessly behind the scenes to push the Government to monitor the works of HS2's contractors and investigate any breaches and wildlife crimes.

The illegal felling of woods and trees is completely wrong, particularly at this time of year when it's likely to have devastating impacts on wildlife.

In normal circumstances, it's very difficult for us to do much on a case-by-case basis, so it's even more difficult for us in these current circumstances.

This is where you, our supporters, can help us. We need your help to determine whether we're looking at a larger issue that has come about as a result of the current lockdown and limits on government bodies to monitor and investigate illegal felling and wildlife crimes.

We're compiling an evidence base of felling cases so we can raise this at a higher level and make sure the Government takes appropriate action. So if you've seen any potential illegal felling then get in contact with us at campaigning@woodlandtrust.org.uk with the following information:

- where the felling has taken place
- details about what has been felled
- when the felling happened
- photos of the felling (ideally before and after).

Together we will continue to fight for the protection of ancient woods, whether the threat is from development or illegal felling!

Day Trippers Using a Disposable Barbecue Started Devastating Forest Fire That Destroyed 480 Acres of Protected Woodland Killing Thousands of Creatures

An article by Darren Boyle for [mailonline](#)

A MAJOR forest fire that destroyed 480 acres of protected woodland and killed hundreds of creatures was caused by day-trippers starting a barbecue. Fire investigators have found the remains of two disposable barbecues amid the blackened landscape of Wareham Forest in Dorset. They say that these discarded items are most likely to have accidentally ignited the tinder-dry forest and heathland that is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and one of the most important in the UK for rare reptiles.

The blaze erupted at lunchtime on 18 May due to 'social activity' in the forest. The flames were quickly fanned by a strong breeze and rapidly spread across the forest. It was so fierce that at one point it jumped over a public road.

More than 150 firefighters spent two days tackling the blaze and were at the scene all week damping down hot spots.

As well as the destruction of vast heathland that is an important habitat for wildlife, thousands of reptiles including grass snakes, adders, lizards and slow worms were killed in the fire.

A spokesman for Dorset Fire and Rescue said: "Following a fire investigation we now believe the cause of this fire to be accidental, due to social activity in the forest. While we cannot pinpoint the exact cause, we have found evidence of multiple disposable barbecues, campfires and glass bottles."

Incident commander Seth Why added: 'The general public has no right of access to that area. People shouldn't be using disposable BBQs out in the countryside.'

Dorset Police has since closed a criminal investigation it launched since it was established the caused was accidental.

Wareham Forest is part of a large area of heathland and is recognised internationally for the rare habitats and wildlife that lives there, including birds such as the nightjar and Dartford warbler and every UK reptile species, including the rare smooth snake and sand lizard.

Wildlife experts said the fire could not have happened at a worse time as all the nesting birds would have had to abandon their eggs or young to escape the fire.

Several charities and organisations have been helping with the clear up and rescue mission, including the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC).

A spokesman for ARC said they rescued about 40 common lizards, 15 sand lizards and two common toads, but he added: "Overall there was very little reptile activity. Reptiles generally can't escape fire, they try to outrun it or go underground but most of them would asphyxiate."

"The fire incident itself is still open and there are multiple hot spots and small flare ups. With no significant rain forecast and winds potentially picking up today and tomorrow the situation is by no means finished. For that reason reptile rescue efforts will continue to be on a relatively small scale.



"There are all six species of British reptile at Wareham Forest as well as all the protected species of bird. This is definitely going to have a hugely devastating impact for wildlife, it couldn't be any worse really. We believe that is the biggest fire in Dorset for 30 years.'

Forestry England, which manages Wareham Forest, said it could take another 30 years for the habitat to recover.

Ranger Mark Warner said: "A lot of the animals survived and were able to get deep down into the vegetation and avoid the fire, but they are now coming up onto a completely black moonscape and they will get picked off rapidly by predators so it's vital we get in there and are able to move those animals."

"Wareham Forest is probably one of the most important sites in the UK for rare British reptiles. It will recover but it's a long time coming. To get back to the position we were in before the fire we're talking about 30 years realistically, but we will see improvements within a year. With only part of the habitat taken out, we have lost animals but we have the ability for other animals to move into the area."

They are urging the public to stay away from Wareham Forest as hot spots are still being dampened down and have also warned people visiting any woodland not to use fire of any kind.

Graham Nottage, Dorset Forester for Forestry England, said: "The devastating fire at Wareham Forest this week has shown just how high the fire risk is right now. We need the public's help to protect our forests. If people are planning on visiting a nearby woodland, they should not use fire of any kind, including disposable or portable BBQs, and safely extinguish cigarettes."

The fire service received another amber wildfire alert - meaning there is an increased risk of wildfires with the dry winds, low humidity and dry heathland vegetation - for the bank holiday weekend and an online petition has since been started calling for a ban of disposable barbecues in the county, which has lots of important heathland.

Editor's Comment.

There was a number of similar articles I could have chosen where the carelessness, stupidity and downright ignorance of the public has resulted in loss of precious habitat. Countless animals, reptiles and insects have perished ... burned to death ... because individuals believe they have a right to have a BBQ when they know full well that they are not supposed to.

I have had to censor my true feelings I'm afraid. Grrrrrr!!

Notes on the Tree Warden Advisory Group Meeting Held in Birmingham on 3 March 2020

In attendance:

Dave Ellwand - Wirral (North)
 Diane Woodward - Warwick (West Midlands)
 John Fleetwood - Broadland (East Anglia)
 Kevin Mason - Epping, (East Anglia Deputy)
 Mike Higgins - Pembrokeshire National Park (Wales)
 Sam Harpur - Brecon Beacons National Park (Wales Deputy)
 Catherine Lloyd - Perth and Kinross (Scotland)
 Sam Village - Leicestershire (East Midlands)
 Sara Lom - CEO, The Tree Council
 Jon Stokes - Director of Trees, Science & Research, The Tree Council (via Skype)
 Clare Bowen - Director of Programmes, Partnerships & Comms, The Tree Council

Apologies:

Dick Walters - South Central
 Julie Bolton - South East
 Spencer Keys - South West

Areas discussed

Welcome, introductions and actions arising from previous meeting

Sara Lom welcomed the group and thanked them for their continued support and for attending this important meeting. She warmly welcomed new Deputy for Wales, Sam Harpur who will be setting up a scheme in Brecon Beacons National Park.

The actions arising from the previous meeting were reviewed and had either been delivered or were covered in the meeting agenda.

The notes of the previous meeting were approved.

Update from The Tree Council since last meeting in December

Sara congratulated Sam Village, Leicestershire representative, who responded to the advert in the Guardian and was recently appointed as National Tree Warden Scheme Co-ordinator. She will start on 20 April. East Midlands Deputy, Richard Ellison, is considering whether he can commit to taking on the Regional Lead role.

Three major tree planting grant funds will be available from The Tree Council this year, largely as a result of a hugely successful National Tree Week campaign in 2019.

1. General tree planting - thanks to Network Rail funds
2. Orchards in Schools - for fruit trees in schools across the UK thanks to Daily Mail Tree Angel campaign
3. Community tree planting - as in previous years

The Tree Council is pleased to be able to fund the planting of 1,000 trees in Pembrokeshire in Winter 2020 thanks to support from Siemens Mobility. With thanks to Mike Higgins for identifying the opportunity at Wolf's Castle.

The Tree Council will host a conference in partnership with Welwyn Garden City and Defra on 22 April during UK Plant Health Week. We aim to celebrate Welwyn's centenary and help raise the profile of plant health. It is aimed at tree wardens and interested members of the public.

Action: Representatives to spread the word and encourage sign up.

The Tree Council is supporting Plymouth

Tree Warden Network with their excellent 'Pilgrim 400' project. 'Pilgrim 400' is a new variety of apple which has been named to commemorate the history-changing voyage in 1620 when 'Pilgrims' sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to start a new life in America. We will support the distribution of 40 Pilgrim apple trees to schools and community groups with connections to the Mayflower's pioneering voyage 400 years ago.

Jon Stokes gave an update on The Tree Council's science and research work. We have been commissioned by Scottish Forestry to partner with them to develop an Ash Dieback Toolkit for Scotland over the coming year.

Work is ongoing to finalise an ash dieback toolkit for Parishes. The Suffolk Tree Warden network is helping to shape this, and it is also being tested with the Leicestershire Network at an event this coming Saturday with Sam Village. We hope the toolkit will be ready to share with tree wardens by the end of June.

The Tree Council is working with Defra on a plan of how local authorities can manage oak processionary moth and our work on local authority Tree Strategies is also ongoing.

Diane asked if the Midlands groups could be involved in some of the science and research work. Jon Stokes explained that this could be possible if bids to explore urban v rural tree issues were successful later in the year.

The Tree Council has contributed to three recent NERC funding bids, mainly focused on tree health monitoring. The results will be known later in the year.

The Tree Council is in conversation with corporate M&G about a three-year partnership to develop Young Tree Champions in schools programme. We would welcome input from the Advisory Group once funding is approved. A mentoring scheme will be explored.

Sara has been meeting other CEOs including CEO of CPRE, Woodland Trust and Ancient Tree Forum to look at how we can work more closely together.

Dave stressed the value of local networking groups such as plant health forums, local plans and landowner groups, education forum including forest schools and eco schools.

Diane suggested that TTC could hold a national conference to bring organisations and local groups together to discuss key matters.

Mike said that the Scouts have developed a forestry badge with the Arb Association which is another opportunity for working within the community.

Diane committed to explore whether the Girl Guides or brownies had a similar forestry badge.

Sam said that she chaired a very successful regional TDAG group in Leicestershire, and on the agenda was a presentation by Sam and colleagues at LCC on the work they had done with TTC on developing and launching their own ash dieback action plan for the county council, which was a great way of bringing various interest groups together.

Kevin suggested that students on countryside management courses could be encouraged to become Tree Champions and act as buddies to school children or other local groups.

Sara and TTC chairman, Joel Cadbury, met Minister Lord Goldsmith in February regarding

the National Tree Strategy, opportunities with young people and compostable tree guards.

Finally, The Tree Council will have a presence on the central avenue of the Chelsea Flower Show this year thanks to an invitation from the award-winning Tom Raffield, furniture designer.

Discussion on proposed training plan

The Group discussed the paper about a national Tree Warden training proposal that had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

The aims and objectives were agreed as well as the overarching 'Train the Trainer' opportunity which would be available for each network.

The aim is to equip all Tree Warden Networks with updated training materials and provide training for lead volunteers in each network so that they can deliver a programme of core modules to an agreed national Tree Council standard, for the benefit of all new and existing Tree Wardens. The training will enhance existing opportunities, rather than replace them.

Project objectives:

1. To provide individual Networks with updated resources to deliver core modules of Tree Warden training, to an agreed national Tree Council standard
2. To provide training to volunteer 'Lead Trainers' (Tree Wardens nominated by each Network), so they can deliver appropriate core training to their networks
3. To enable networks to deliver core training sustainably year on year
4. To explore the development of a Tree Council Training & Events Logbook for each Tree Warden
5. To evaluate the programme as it develops and incorporate feedback on a regular basis through the year

Core modules:

Following feedback from networks and co-ordinators and discussion with the Advisory Group, the core training syllabus for new Tree Wardens will include the following modules:

1. **A compulsory induction** - Induction session for new Tree Wardens including their role, the important dos and don'ts, the value of trees, as well as an overview of the topics below.
2. **Six core modules** - based on updated materials from the Tree Warden Handbook
 - Trees & the law
 - Tree biology and basic tree ID - summer and winter
 - Tree planting - planning and practice
 - Managing & caring for trees
 - Tree threats and tree health
 - Identifying areas of opportunity and safely organising events in your community

Printed vs digital resources

The group discussed the pros and cons of printed vs digital resources. It was acknowledged that not all tree wardens have access to a computer and so access to paper resources for some would still be important.

The downside to printed materials is that they are very expensive, especially the Tree Warden Handbook in its current format, and although it's nice to be able to hand a binder to new wardens, most often, these handbooks then sit on the shelf for years. TTC is also keen to have a low carbon footprint and limit the amount of printing it does as an organisation.

It was agreed that TTC would produce updated core modules and have them available on the website for people to view and / or download and print themselves if required and have a small number of printed versions of the modules available on request.

Additional training materials

In addition, TTC will explore producing certain extra information materials (most digital but some printed e.g. postcards / guides) for each of these core modules so that networks can share them with their tree wardens.

Mike suggested exploring a set of Top Trumps cards for trees!

Train the Trainer concept

TTC will create PowerPoint presentations for the networks to use for volunteer training.

It was agreed that the slides should not be editable so the core content information would remain consistent and standardized.

A role description for the volunteer trainers was discussed. People skills would be essential, not just tree knowledge or experience.

It was suggested that networks would benefit from having training mentors / buddies to assist with training delivery.

Definitions of regions for training purposes

It was agreed that the regional boundaries would remain flexible for the purposes of Train the Trainer training opportunities in order to reduce travel costs and accommodate the greatest number of people.

E-learning and webinars

TTC is exploring possibilities of hosting e-learning options for the core modules on its website.

Advantages include making the training accessible to a large number of tree wardens and also recording who is taking part and tracking uptake and progress.

E-certificates will be issued once modules and on-line assessments are successfully completed.

Diane suggests developing simple, good quality, online tree quizzes aimed at tree wardens.

There was discussion about whether the compulsory induction should be delivered in person or as a stand-alone webinar / video. There were mixed views and resources would be provided for both so that the co-ordinator could decide.

Training webinars are to be explored to reduce travel costs and increase the number of tree wardens reached.

Action: TTC to write a brief to commission an experienced trainer to update the information in the Tree Warden Handbook and create PowerPoint presentations for the networks to use to train their Tree Wardens.

This brief would be shared with the Advisory Group to forward to any trainers they think would be interested.

Network insurance

Many networks are covered by local authority / parish council insurance but independent networks must arrange their own. The barrier to groups taking out insurance is the cost for cover that includes all tree warden activities and public liability.

Some groups have taken out insurance through the Zurich TCV offer but this is still expensive. For example circa £285 was quoted for one network

TTC have looked into group insurance for the entire network but this is not possible as every network is so different and Tree Wardens not under the direct management of The Tree Council.

Small Woods charity and TCV Community Networks have a good package which is worth exploring.

Action: TTC to work with the independent networks on the AG to find a reasonably priced insurer that has the most relevant and comprehensive cover

Risk assessment templates

It was agreed that as part of the updated modules, TTC would draft generic risk assessments for relevant modules so that tree warden coordinators can adapt them according to their needs.

A risk assessment needs to be carried out for each group activity.

Other courses & resources to signpost to Tree Wardens

The Group suggested a number of other excellent courses and resources that tree wardens could consider doing in addition to the core training, although this would be at their own cost. These may be listed on the TTC website once the core training package has been finalised.

- Street Trees by Arb Association
- Ancient Tree Forum courses
- TCV – formative tree pruning and tool use
- Future Learn courses
- Royal Town Planning Institute courses
- Lantra courses
- Ancient Tree Hunt
- OPAL resources are excellent

Budget

The new training programme is funded by an award of £20,000 from Postcode Local Trust with matched investment by The Tree Council.

AOB

The Chairman and Trustees of TTC asked Sara to raise the matter of a letter sent by Sarah Ridgeway, Chair of Warwick Tree Wardens, to the TTC chairman, highlighting areas of discontent. The Advisory Group did not agree with the tone or content of the letter. Diane added some additional background information. It was agreed by all that the matter was closed.



Agenda for the Advisory Group Online Meeting to be Held on 17 June 2020

DUE to the current restrictions being enforced as a result of the COVID-19 virus, the meeting will not be held in London as previously agreed but instead will be held via a Zoom video call. Please let me know as soon as possible of anything you wish me to raise

Agenda

1. Welcome, apologies & actions arising from previous meeting
2. Tree Council update since last meeting
3. Welcome Joel Cadbury, Tree Council Chairman with the opportunity for questions
4. Training
5. Membership & insurance
6. Funding opportunities from Tree Council Grants
7. Autumn 2020 programme
8. Government consultations - National Tree Strategy and ELMS, (Environmental Land Management System)
9. Biosecurity discussion (John Fleetwood)
10. AOB
11. Date of Next Meeting
12. Close
- i. 30th Anniversary plans
- ii. Regional forums and agreement on how to deliver in 2020/2021

Deforestation of Amazon Rainforest Accelerates Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

An article by *Evan Simon and Aicha El Hammar Castano*
Published on www.abcnews.go.com

AN HISTORIC assault is being waged on the Amazon rainforest and the indigenous people who have called it home for thousands of years as the world's population takes shelter from the COVID-19 pandemic. Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon rose more than 50% in the first three months of 2020 compared to the same three-month period last year, according to preliminary satellite data released by the Brazilian Space Agency's deforestation monitoring system.

Even before the pandemic, scientists warned that Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's development friendly policies could transform the world's largest rainforest into a drier, savannah-like landscape. Once this "tipping point" is crossed, scientists said, the ecosystem could begin emitting more greenhouse gases than it captures, effectively turning a vital tool in the fight against climate change into another source of harmful emissions.

Brazil's indigenous reserves hold some of the most pristine sections of the rainforest in the world and have long been targeted by illegal logging and mining operations seeking to exploit their natural resources. Since the outbreak started, however, Brazil's environmental agency has scaled back more enforcement measures, leaving the forest and its indigenous tribes even more vulnerable to a litany of deadly threats.

"Our territory keeps being invaded by loggers and hunters," Laercio Guajajara, a member of the Guajajara tribe in the state of Maranhao, told ABC News. Even in the midst of the global health crisis, he said, there were "still a lot of invasions."

Now, those so-called invaders could leave more than just environmental destruction in their wake.

"We are desperate," Andre Karipuna, a 27-year-old member of the tiny Karipuna tribe of in the state of Rondonia, told the Environmental Justice Foundation. "The Karipuna are a small isolated community and just one infected person could rapidly pass the virus on to the whole tribe."

Brazil's indigenous tribes have already been under increased pressure since Bolsonaro took office in 2019. He immediately began slashing funding and enforcement at FUNAI, the country's department of indigenous affairs that provides essential services to indigenous communities across the nation. In July 2019, he appointed a federal police officer with connections to agribusiness to head the agency.

Some tribal leaders have taken defence of their lands into their own hands. Last summer, ABC News was granted rare access to one such group, the Guajajara tribe's "Guardians," embedding within their ragtag convoy of trucks



and motorcycles during a four-day patrol over several dozen miles of dense terrain.

With cameras rolling, the "Guardians" pursued an illegal logging operation deep into the jungle, employing satellite imagery, intelligence gathering and old-fashioned tracking along the way. The resulting documentary, "Guardians of the Amazon" captured a complex struggle, featuring powerful industrial interests, complicit tribal villagers, indifferent government agencies and an ever-present fear of violent reprisals.

Now, in the midst of the pandemic, the Brazilian government is again advancing controversial legislation regarding indigenous lands, potentially compounding tribes' vulnerability to invasion and infection.

In April, Bolsonaro's indigenous affairs agency, FUNAI, passed the controversial law IN 09. The new rule prevents long-held indigenous lands waiting for official demarcation from being labelled as "indigenous" in the land registry as they wait.

Environmental groups allege the new law provides a route for those who illegally occupy indigenous lands to claim the land is not indigenous. According to Greenpeace, the seemingly obscure rule change will have drastic consequences for the nearly one third of indigenous lands still awaiting official designation by the government.

Another controversial rule, Provisional Measure (MP) 910, first decreed by Bolsonaro in December 2019, is now being considered for permanent law. The measure allows those who illegally deforested and occupied protected federal lands before December 2018 to purchase the property at reduced prices.

Critics allege the rule is a reward for illegal land grabbers and criminal gangs who seized protected lands from indigenous tribes, and an analysis by the not-for-profit organization IMAZON found the measure could lead to the added deforestation of up to 16,000 km² of

rainforest by 2027.

The Bolsonaro administration denies the new land ownership rules would facilitate and legitimize land-grabbing, arguing new land-owners will be required to preserve up to 80% of their land and will only grant legal titles to those who occupied federal lands in a "tame and peaceful way for many years." The measure could be passed by a virtual vote within a few weeks, without being subject to standard scrutiny, according to environmental groups.

Since the enforcement rollbacks, reports of illegal logging and violent attacks across the region's indigenous reserves have increased. Grave concern is widespread among indigenous tribes both large and small.

In early April, Indigenous leaders from the Yanomami reserve, the country's largest, began reporting an increase in illegal gold mining during the pandemic. BBC Brasil published satellite photographs showing illegal miners moving into an area of the reserve where one isolated community lives. Some leaders reportedly blamed the invasions for the 10 April death of a 15-year-old boy who was the first among Yanomami known to die from the virus.

The Karipuna indigenous tribe of Rondonia -- one of the smallest and most vulnerable indigenous tribes in the country with less than 100 people -- submitted a complaint to federal prosecutors on April 8th stating non-indigenous people were clearing inside their reserve.

"It is urgent that the authorities take surgical and structural measures to combat land grabbing underway [at the reserve]" the complaint reads, demanding the identification, arrest, and withdrawal of the invaders.

Some tribes are reporting an increase in land-use related bloodshed during the pandemic. On 18 April, a 33-year-old indigenous leader of the Uru-eu-wau-wau reserve in Rondonia was reportedly assassinated. The leader had been known for his outspoken criticism of illegal logging.

In addition, in March, Zezico Rodrigues Guajajara of the Guajajara tribe in the state of Maranhao was killed by a shotgun-wielding assailant that has yet to be found, according to Amazon Watch. A teacher and long-time supporter of the Guajajara's "Guardians of the Forest," Zezico was reportedly gunned down while riding his motorcycle, becoming the fifth Guajajara murdered in as many months.

"Indigenous lands are living a very difficult time," Erival Guajajara, a 29-year-old member of the Guajajara told ABC News. "We are afraid for our lives because of our vulnerability."

Global CO₂ Emissions Could Fall 7% in 2020 Due to COVID-19, Study Shows

GLOBAL CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels are set to drop by up to 7% in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, but even this dramatic decline – the sharpest since WWII – would barely dent long-term global warming, researchers reported on 19 May. In early April, coronavirus lockdowns led to a 17% reduction worldwide in carbon pollution compared to the same period last year, according to the first peer-reviewed assessment of the pandemic's impact on CO₂ emissions, published in Nature Climate Change.

Four countries or blocs – China, the United States, the European Union and India – accounted for two-thirds of the downturn across the first four months of 2020, equivalent to more than one billion tonnes of CO₂.

Total emissions from industry and energy last year came to a record 37 billion tonnes.

"Population confinement has led to drastic changes in energy use and CO₂ emissions," said lead author Corinne Le Quere, a professor at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of East Anglia.

"These extreme decreases are likely to be temporary, however, as they do not reflect structural changes in the economic, transport or energy systems."

If the global economy recovers to pre-pandemic conditions by mid-June – an unlikely scenario – CO₂ emissions in 2020 are projected to drop only 4%, Le Quere and her team calculated, but if lockdown restrictions persist throughout the year, the decline will be around 7%.

With nearly five million confirmed infections and 320,000 deaths, the COVID-19 pandemic has deflected attention from the climate crisis that dominated global concerns in 2019, but the climate threat remains, other experts warn.

"This will make barely a dent in the ongoing build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere," said Richard Betts, head of climate impacts research at Britain's Met Office Hadley Centre.

"We need to stop putting it there altogether, not just put it there more slowly. It's like we're filling a bath and have turned down the tap slightly – but not turned it off. The water is still rising, just not as fast" he said.

Earth's average surface temperature has so far risen by 1°C above pre-industrial levels – enough to amplify deadly droughts, heatwaves and superstorms engorged by rising seas.

Under the 2015 Paris climate treaty, nearly 200 nations pledged to cap global warming at "well below" 2°C, but the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) subsequently determined that 1.5°C is a far safer temperature guardrail.

The pandemic has underscored just how difficult it will be to hit that more ambitious target.

Emissions must fall 7.6% – in line with the worst-case lockdown scenario for 2020 – every year this decade to ensure the 1.5°C cap, unless other means are found to remove carbon from the atmosphere, scientists calculate.

"The pandemic has shown us that major structural changes in the transport and energy systems are required," noted Mark Maslin, a professor of climatology at University College London.



Some experts have suggested the pandemic could speed up that transition.

"Fossil fuels seem to be getting hit harder relative to renewables," said Glen Peters, research director of the Center for International Climate Research in Oslo.

"If this (continues) we may come out of COVID with emissions going down, since renewables have been able to take more relative space, pushing out some of the most polluting fossil fuels, especially coal."

However, the multi-trillion dollar rescue packages – especially in the United States and China – hastily assembled to stave off another Great Depression send mixed signals when it comes to building a green global economy.

"There is a high risk that short-sightedness will lead governments to lose track of the bigger picture and put money into highly polluting sectors that have no place in a zero-carbon society," said Joeri Rogelj, a researcher at Grantham Institute and Imperial College London.

Different sectors of the economy have been hit unevenly by measures taken to halt the pandemic, the study revealed.

On 7 April – the day global CO₂ pollution dropped the most – emissions from land transport accounted for more than 40% of the decrease, while industry, electricity generation, and aviation accounted for 25%, 19% and 10% respectively.

Calculating global emissions of CO₂ and methane – another potent greenhouse gas – usually takes months or longer, but methods used in the study could help guide decision-making, the authors said.

"If we can see the effect of a policy in the space of months as opposed to years then we can refine policies more quickly," said Peters.

You Must Read This

I recently stumbled across a wonderful article on the BBC news website that you simply must read if you care about the future of the Amazon Rainforest ... and if you don't care about the Amazon Rainforest you will if you read it!

The article, "Amazon under threat: fires, loggers and now virus", is by Camilla Costa of Visual Journalism Americas and can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-51300515

The Amazon rainforest, which plays a vital role in balancing the world's climate and helping fight global warming, is also suffering as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Deforestation jumped 55% in the first four months of 2020 compared with the same period last year, as people have taken advantage of the crisis to carry out illegal clearances.

Deforestation, illegal mining, land clearances and wildfires were already at an 11-year high and scientists say we're fast approaching a point of no return, after which the Amazon will no longer function as it should.

Costa, looks at the pressures pushing the Amazon to the brink and asks what the nine countries that share this unique natural resource are doing to protect it.

Cambridge Tree Survey

EXPERTS from Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) are working in partnership with Cambridge City Council, Treeconomics and Forest Research to carry out the i-Tree Eco survey – a new citizen science project to identify the benefits provided by the city’s trees. Cambridge has over 300,000 trees, which have a positive impact on the city’s environment benefiting residents, visitors and wildlife. The i-Tree Eco survey will help describe and quantify these benefits, enabling better management of the trees and support for future investment in the city’s urban forest.

A similar project carried out in London discovered that trees within the area of Ealing Borough Council provided benefits to a value of £1.6 million per year. It was found they help to reduce flood risk, improve air quality, store carbon, boost biodiversity and enhance health and wellbeing.

The i-Tree suite of tools was developed by the US Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service and have been adapted for use in the UK. The Cambridge study was initially going to involve 20 students from ARU’s School of Life Sciences carrying out the surveys across the city.

Due to COVID-19, the i-Tree Eco survey will

now go ahead as a collaborative and innovative citizen science project, with the organisers hoping to engage at least 135 Cambridge households. Participants will be sent guides to help them determine the type and size of trees and other vegetation in their own gardens.

Staff and student volunteers from ARU will be involved in additional surveying work once social distancing restrictions have been lifted.

Dr Julia Mackenzie, from ARU’s School of Life Sciences, said: “This is a wonderful opportunity for ARU’s students to gain practical field experience and put into practice different skills they have learnt during their degree.”

Councillor Katie Thornburrow, the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Open Spaces, said: “I am pleased that the residents and students of Cambridge have this opportunity to participate collectively in a project

that will help us to protect this wonderful green asset for the benefit of the whole community now and in the future.”

This i-Tree Eco survey is part of the Cambridge Canopy Project, a Council-led initiative which aims to help Cambridge prepare for the projected impacts brought about by climate change by protecting and enhancing the city’s urban forest.

Victoria Tait, from ARU’s Global Sustainability Institute, said: “As global warming continues to cause temperatures to rise, particularly in built up areas, trees will become an ever more vital part of a city’s urban infrastructure. We are delighted to be involved in such an exciting project that provides so many tangible benefits for the people who live, work, and study in Cambridge.

Marian Spain Appointed as Natural England Chief Executive

MARIAN SPAIN has been appointed as the new chief executive of Natural England, taking the post on a permanent basis after serving as interim chief executive since December 2018. The organisation, sponsored by Defra, is the government’s adviser for England’s natural environment, helping to protect nature and landscapes for people to enjoy and for the services they provide.

Natural England chair Tony Juniper said “Marian has shown an unrivalled commitment to protect and enhance our natural environment along with excellent leadership skills.

It is so important not only for Natural England but also our environment to have someone with Marian’s passion and experience to lead our teams at this vital time for conservation. She will ensure that the organisation can meet the challenge of restoring nature, which lies at the heart of the government’s environmental policy, as the country recovers from the impact of coronavirus.”

Environment Secretary George Eustice said “I want to thank Marian for all her excellent work over the last year. As we focus on setting environmental policy and farming support



outside the European Union, Natural England has never been so important. I am looking forward to working further with Marian as we link together our wide range of initiatives to restore this nation’s nature.”

Natural England chief executive Marian Spain said “It has been an honour to lead Natural England’s exceptional, talented and passionate teams and I am so proud to be able to continue.

“Every day our people work incredibly hard to make life in our country better. The future of Natural England is an exciting one as we build the partnerships we need to help nature thrive, so that we have a healthier planet and healthier people.”

Marian Spain was appointed interim Chief Executive by the Natural England Board in November 2018, taking up the role in December that year.

She was chief executive of Plant Life as well as holding a number of senior roles with organisations in the environment sector, including the Environment Agency and Countryside Agency – a predecessor body of Natural England.

Anti-HS2 Protesters Set-Up Tree-Top Camp in Warwickshire Woods During Lockdown

*An article by Jack Evans and Madeleine Clark
published on www.coventrytelegraph.net*

ANTI-HS2 DEMONSTRATORS have set up camp in woodland tree houses in a bid to block the high-speed rail development going ahead during the coronavirus crisis. Protesters have spent the last eight weeks camping out in ancient trees which are set to be felled along the proposed route in Crackley Woods, Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

Dozens of campaigners from Extinction Rebellion and the Stop HS2 groups have joined forces to reside at the makeshift camps in the under-threat forests.

Their camp of around 20 tents and camper vans has been blocking work sites and is said to feature a roundhouse built from hay bales complete with a field kitchen.

The group say they have been spending the days up trees during lockdown and claim to be self-isolating as though they are a "single, large household".

Supporters have been bringing the group food and care packages to leave at the edge of the camp as they continue to protest against the high speed rail link.

It comes as demonstrations across 20 other sites including London's Euston Station took place with protesters blocking access to building sites.

Campaigners say the ongoing work to HS2 should be classed as non-essential and is putting the lives of workers and their families at risk.

Environmentalists including Chris Packham are also angry that the development of the railway is leading to "irreversible destruction" of ancient habitats and woodlands.

One protester Samantha Smithson, 37, of Nottingham, describes herself as a "full-time tree defender" with the Crackley Woods Protection Group. The former fashion designer has spent the last three nights in a hammock near a tree that was due to be felled.

She said: "I'm currently sat on top of a cherry picker transport vehicle which is what they use to carry people to cut off branches from the trees before felling them, so I'm stopping that. There is also another lorry behind with the sleepers they use for the line which can't get past. It's hard to say but I think I've been up for 45 minutes. There are six to 10 police officers here.

"They have given me a warning and have to wait for specialist services to get me down because I'm elevated above two metres. Because the traffic was stopped in the road it was quite easy to climb on top above the bonnet. I'm planning to stay here indefinitely.

"I didn't plan to do this but we have got to stop this destruction. I'm a member of Extinction Rebellion and I joined HS2 Rebellion quite recently. I'm doing this because HS2 is destroying hundreds of ancient woodlands we need to fight climate change. This is our Amazon.

"There is no financial or environmental benefit. It costs £6,600 a person and we need to



give the money to the NHS during the pandemic. HS2 is affecting London's drinking water and making people homeless during the pandemic. There are no good reasons for it.

"I've been staying in a tree for three days. We knew what they were planning because they had to tell the public they were closing the road to fell one of the trees. We set up a hammock near the tree they were planning to log. The Crawley Woods camp is round the corner so they could bring us supplies if we needed. The three of us brought our own picnics and snacks.

"It is my first time sleeping in a tree and it's very beautiful being in the fresh air, but it's not picturesque being near what the HS2 workers are doing. The public walking by have been very supportive and have been saying: 'Good on you.'

"After I was arrested yesterday I spoke to the police officer who interviewed me. He agreed it was a waste of money and said he wished it was not happening."

Another camp protestor, a former tree surgeon known only as Quercus - which is Latin for Oak - said he was "overcome with grief" when he saw trees being cut down.

He added: "Even before we had the pandemic and lockdown, there were a vast minority of people that were able to come out and do protests like this - certainly far fewer people now.

"People's democratic right to protest and have their say has been taken away at this time. I wouldn't say I'm happy to be arrested again, but I'm privileged enough to be arrested without it affecting me too much."

Donations

This year donations from parish councils have been much less than they were last year. That could be because the novelty of our Network has worn off (didn't take long did it?) or maybe we haven't lived up to expectations!!

Whatever the reason, we depend on donations from the parishes for our survival. Yes, we have Broadland District Council's generous tree planting budget but that doesn't cover our administration costs.

I endeavour to keep those administration costs to an absolute minimum but some expenditure is unavoidable. Hence my annual request to the parishes for a minimum donation of £25,

Now, I think a Tree Warden who does his or her job properly is well worth twenty five quid each year and I'm sure that you all do your jobs properly.

So can I please ask you all to remind your councils to consider making a donation of at least £25 for 2020-2021? It's not a lot of money but it will be a lifeline to this Network.

Of course, if your council wishes to donate more than £25 then who am I to argue????

How Cork Gets From a Tree to Your Wine Bottle

An article by Jill Barth published on www.10best.com

THE CORK wine stopper is synonymous with preservation, not only of the wine in the bottle, but of a way of life for cork farmers and the natural ecosystem of the forest. The process has been the same for generations because the system is a sustainable network benefiting the local economy, the environment and the industries that utilise cork, particularly the wine industry.

Cork grows naturally in only two areas of the world: the Mediterranean region of Europe, particularly the Iberian Peninsula where Portugal and Spain produce more than 80% of the world's cork, and north-west Africa.

Los Alcornocales Natural Park (a name that literally means "the cork oak grove") is the largest mass of cork oak on the Iberian Peninsula and the cork woodlands are home to rich biodiversity including endangered species such as the Iberian lynx, Iberian imperial eagle and other rare birds.

A stunning array of ferns, fungi and other plants call these forests home alongside the cork oak trees, which can grow up to 20m in height and provide shelter for the creatures that thrive here.

For most forest ecosystems, the word "harvest" signals threat, but a cork harvest isn't typical of forestry because the tree itself isn't cut down. In fact, there is no harm to the tree thanks to the cork oak's unique ability to regenerate outer bark (the layer we know as cork) and the mastery of the farmers.

There's no deforestation, no heavy machines and no industrial complex. Rather a sustainable way of the life that retains nature's bounty.

Every summer from May to August, teams of agriculturalists called extractors – skilled workers with years of experience and a generational connection to the forest – set out with their simple tool, a locally-made, frighteningly sharp axe.



The extractor makes a horizontal slice and several vertical slices in an instinctive way. A precise depth is required to pull the bark safely from the cambium, a membrane of cells just under the bark. As the cuts are made, the cork is drawn away in great sheet planks, revealing the stunning red tree underneath. The planks are taken out of the forest by truck, by hand, or even by mule if necessary, on their way to the cork processing facility.

Trees yielding cork for wine stoppers must be at least 40 years old for their virgin harvest. "[A tree] can be stripped of its cork once every 9 to 12 years without causing damage to the tree," Rainforest Alliance states. "A single cork oak, which lives up to 200 years, can be harvested over 16 times."

Extractors daub the next harvest date onto each tree after their job is complete. The cork grows from within, maintaining the visibility of the number and allowing extractors to determine when they should cut next.

Extracting is a well-paying job in an industry that's been supporting the local economy for centuries. "In the seven cork-producing

countries of the Mediterranean, more than 100,000 people directly or indirectly depend on this sector," according to the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF). As this process can't be rushed, young farmers and forests mature simultaneously, allowing the next generation to learn from experienced elders.

"It is precisely the populations with the lowest level of income per capita that are favoured by the economic activity" of cork oak forestry, shares Juan Manuel Fornell Fernández, conservative director of Los Alcornocales.

According to the WWF, each tree can produce enough material for 4,000 wine corks.

Recaredo, a world-class cava producer in Catalonia, is a champion for using local cork in wine bottles. "The cork industry helps keep people in the natural environment of the dehesas [the low-intensity Spanish farming system where corks grow, called montados in Portugal] in their region by generating enough value across the production chain to support them," says Ton Mata, oenologist and member of the Recaredo family.

"This allows people to live in a great natural setting in perfect balance, in a sustainable relationship with the environment."

So what should you do with a cork stopper after that bottle of wine is gone? Recycle it.

"From 2009, 380 million cork stoppers have been recycled worldwide," according to Corticeira Amorim, the largest world producer of cork products. "These stoppers turn into materials for houses, into shoes, into coatings, into insulating acoustic...they never turn again into another stopper of wine."

Obituary

TODAY we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years.

No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- why the early bird gets the worm;
- life isn't always fair;
- and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a

classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to

live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death,

- by his parents, Truth and Trust,
- by his wife, Discretion,
- by his daughter, Responsibility,
- and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim
- Pay me for Doing Nothing

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

Tree Story: The History of the World Written in Rings

A forthcoming book by Valerie Trouet reviewed by Jacob Dykes
on www.geographical.co.uk

AMONGST the waddling Gila monsters, speeding roadrunners and jutting cacti of the Arizona desert lies an unlikely centre of academic excellence – the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research (LTRR). In *Tree Story*, Valerie Trouet invites us into this surprising world.

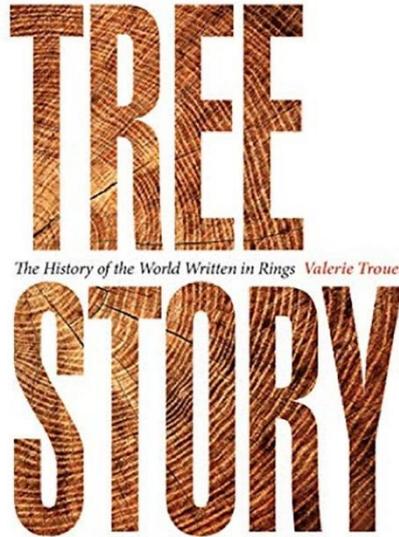
Trees possess a series of rings that correspond to annual cycles of growth, which are determined by atmospheric and climatic events.

To the untrained eye, the rings of a favourite garden tree stump might elicit nothing other than childhood memories of laboriously counting. Yet, through Trouet's trained eyes as a qualified dendrochronologist, this practice is a transcendental journey through time. Travelling the world to 'core' trees and collect samples, dendrochronologists have forged a timeline through which to examine complex climatic periods and events in Earth's history.

Trouet's work in this field transports us to far-flung reaches of the planet, even if, as inexperienced arborists, we may need a bit of hand-holding.

The protagonists of this tale are the ancient pillars of our environments which, to some skilled researchers, harbour wisdom from aeons past. Trouet's fascination with the treasures of her adventures brings out the character in each of her subjects.

There is Adonis, the oldest dendrochronologically dated tree in Europe, towering atop the Pindos mountain range in northern Greece; there is Methusaleh, the 4,789-year-old sage of the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest; and countless other trees which have stood witness to the events in our history



processes can leave one reeling, but there is a reverence to be found in Trouet's steady process and loyalty to her field. Dedication to accuracy is the essence of dendrochronology and the reason for its authority in dating wooden archaeological finds, and in resolving disputes over the authenticity of historic artworks (experts can accurately date the frames).

Trouet is at her best when she weaves history and climate science, such as the dendrochronologically dated cold summer of 1816 – a by-product of the Tombara volcanic eruption in Indonesia – which she claims forced Mary Shelley, holidaying at Lake Geneva, inside to swap stories about a young scientist and his monster.

For those who enjoy academia, or those who can get round it, Trouet's *Tree Story* is a handy field-guide to study Earth's climate; its dependency on orbital variations, its sensitivity to volcanic eruptions and to solar radiation. Through an unexpected lens, we learn how our climate has been shaped by natural forces, and how some of the most ancient living things bear the etchings of time immemorial.

Tree Story will be published in the UK on 16 June 2020, and is available for pre-order [here](#). Valerie Trouet is an associate professor in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research at the University of Arizona.

books.

Trouet paints a portrait of a scientific process. We learn how scientists think in order to solve seemingly insurmountable challenges; how they share information and meticulously plan their study.

Descriptions of belaboured academic



Another picture of "Majesty", the Fredville Oak, shown on the front cover of this issue.

The Body Stuffed Inside an Elm Tree

*A gruesome extract from an article by Jane Tyler
published on www.birminghammail.co.uk*

THE mere mention of "Bella of the Woods" to anyone in north Worcestershire is sure to send a chill running down their spines. This grisly murder has been the basis of many a child's nightmare for decades. In 1943, the body of a woman was found stuffed inside a hollow tree - tragically, she has never been officially identified and the case is now cold.

It all began in 1943 when four boys were playing in Hagley Woods, Worcestershire. After deciding to climb a tree, they stumbled across the remains of a woman inside the hollow wych elm.

At first they were all too traumatised to tell anyone, but eventually the youngest lad confided in his parents who rang the police.

When the body was examined, experts estimated that the victim was a woman around 35 years old and had been dead for approximately 18 months.

Even though there were signs of struggle on the body, it was believed she was murdered by asphyxiation when taffeta, a type of lustrous fabric, was stuffed into her mouth.

Then the plot thickened: graffiti began appearing in the region, saying "Who put Bella down the wych elm?"

Even though they have dental records and know a bit about the woman's appearance, police have never been able to identify the body.

There have been multiple theories about who the victim could be. One theory is that she



was German actress Clarabella Baurele (Bella is short for Clarabella). A Gestapo spy was taken in for questioning, but never charged.

Another rumour which circulated was that Bella was killed for being involved in black magic - a suggestion put down to the ritualistic nature of the slaying.

In 1944, a tip-off was given to police by a Birmingham prostitute who claimed that Bella was her friend, a fellow street-walker, who had gone missing three years previously after working on the Hagley Road.

Another suspect was considered in 1953

when a woman told police that her cousin had confessed to the crime, but this was subsequently discounted as the cousin was admitted to a hospital for people with mental health problems.

Then, in 2015 a social media user claimed they had found an old diary entry from their grandfather that might unlock the case. On one of the pages, the words "I PUT BELLA IN THE WYCH ELM" were scrawled in maniacal writing, but this line of enquiry was never pursued.

Now the case has gone stone cold and 77 years on, it remains a mystery.



COVID-19 Lockdown

WHILST the Government has started to lift restrictions designed to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, it would be foolhardy to believe that everything is ok now and we can return to the lifestyle we enjoyed before we had ever heard of Corona virus. These are the first tentative steps and we have a very long way to go yet.

Therefore, the restrictions we have recommended for Tree Warden activities must remain in place for the time being.

The Woodland Trust have instructed me to cancel all the talks I had booked for July and are currently reviewing the position regarding August.

The Tree Council is maintaining its current restrictions and, indeed, the Tree Warden Advisory Group we had scheduled for London on 17 June will now be held via Zoom video conferencing.

Broadland District Council is still operating under lockdown conditions and has not, at the time of publishing this edition of Broadsheet, indicated any plans to change that.

Parish Councils continue to operate under



"lockdown conditions".

Therefore, the restrictions we have placed on the Broadland Tree Warden Network simply must continue for the time being. However, should there be a change in circumstances we will inform you immediately.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally both thank and congratulate the Clerks to Parish and Town Councils for the way they have continued to operate so efficiently under the difficult conditions imposed as a result

of the COVID-19 lockdown.

It couldn't have been easy as the majority of them are "one-man shows" (or one-woman shows in many cases of course!). I have never experienced any difficulty in contacting any of them or obtaining any necessary information. Project planning has been able to proceed seamlessly.

Yes, the lockdown has not prevented us planning our projects for the coming year and in the coming months I will be revealing details of exciting projects in Brundall, Hellesdon, Salhouse and Rackheath ... to name but a few.

So, please bear with us and help to ensure that this awful pandemic is effectively controlled once and for all.

That is, of course, until the next one comes along!

Dr Jo's Corner

The column by Jo Parmenter, Reedham's Parish Tree Warden

Wildflower of the Month:

Euphorbia amygdaloides ssp *amygdaloides* - Wood Spurge

ONCE seen, wood spurge is fairly unmistakable; a tall spurge (approaching waist-high on me, although I know that's not saying much) and it grows in discrete clumps rather than the dense carpets formed by the closely related garden species, ssp *robbiae*. As with all spurges, it produces a white latex when damaged.

It has an oddly disjointed UK distribution; it is mainly southern, but grows on sandy-clay soils in Norfolk, clay over chalk in the Chilterns, and free-draining acid sands in the New Forest (where it is extremely common).

The main thing in common that all of these locations have is woodland cover: an archetypal ancient woodland plant, it is slow to spread and dislikes disturbance; it is also intolerant of very heavy shade, so prefers old managed woods where rides are kept open or coppicing takes place. Most of the Norfolk sites are County Wildlife Sites or Sites of Special Scientific Interest.



Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area News

Broadland Tree Preservation Orders Served, Confirmed and Revoked

TPO Number	Address	Served	Trees Protected	Status
2020 No 1 (1303)	Robin Hill, 16 South Walsham Road, Acle	17/02/2020	All trees on site	Provisional
2020 No 2 (1304)	Agricultural land north of Buxton Road, Aylsham	19/02/2020	2 x oak	Provisional
2020 No 3 (1305)	Land at Wood Green, Salhouse	09/03/2020	1 x Leyland cypress	Provisional
2020 No 4 (1306)	Land rear of 48 Spixworth Road, Old Catton	29/04/2020	T1 oak, T2 deodar cedar T3 copper beech T4 yew	Provisional

Current Works to Trees Subject to a Tree Preservation Order and Section 211 Notifications for Works to Trees Within Conservation Areas

App No	Address	Cat	Species / Requested Works	Decision
20191487	Thatched House, 10 The Street, Coltishall	211	Coppicing of 6 willow and 3 silver birch. Currently 8m in Height.	19/09/2019
20191569	68 St Williams Way, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 oak - end weight reduction. Reduce width from 13.5m 8m.	28/11/2019
20191764	The Loft, Aylsham Water Mill, Mill Row, Aylsham	211	Lime – fell.	08/11/2019
20191768	Belt Farm, Mill Row, Aylsham	211	T1- fell. T2 yew - crown lift to 4m & reduce laterals to rear of property by 2-2.5m. T3 sycamore - remove to coppice. T4 - remove all sycamore stems and holly 5m of garden wall.	13/11/2019
20191982	Bircham Centre, Market Place, Reepham	211	T1 and T2 holly – fell.	31/12/2019
20200180	Tanamera, 165 Shakespeare Way, Taverham	TPO	T1 oak - fell.	28/01/2020
20200271	Hill House, Heydon Road, Aylsham	TPO	T2 horse chestnut – fell.	10/02/2020
20200279	28 Leewood, Back Street, Horsham St Faiths	TPO	T1 alder - current height 13.5m, reduce crown by 2m.	Approved
20200316	Land Adj Willow End, Swan Plain, Horsham St Faith	211	Ash - reduce back from Willow End's back garden. Reduce crown spread from 20m to 15m.	17/02/2020
20200335	Sparrow Cottage, The Street, Oulton	211	Silver birch: Current approx height, crown lift to 3.5m.	Approved
20200347	74 Sandy Lane, Taverham	TPO	T1 oak – reduce overhanging branches by 1-2 m and canopy by 3-4m. T2 sweet chestnut – reduce crown by 2-3m. T3 sycamore - reduce and re-shape crown by 2-3m. Crown thin by 20-30%.	Withdrawn
20200372	Forge Cottage, 25 The Street. South Walsham	TPO	T1 sycamore - remove deadwood and crossing branches. Raise canopy to 4m. Remove one over-extended lateral branch that has grown towards an undesirable location within garden. Due to the tree's form and good vitality the removal of this limb will be inconsequential to the shape of the crown.	Withdrawn
20200373	County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich	TPO	Details attached.	24/02/2020

20200379	16A Hurn Road, Drayton	TPO	T1 pine - lift crown over neighbours' by removing lowest branch to reduce nuisance and interference with neighbours' property. T2 lime and T3 oak- reduce crown to height of pine tree and reduce south-east crown spread to allow 4m clearance from house to re-balance crown, reduce shading and future interference with house in the interests of good management practice.	Approved
20200402	Royal Norwich Golf Club, Weston Park, Weston Hall Road, Weston Longville	TPO	T1 beech overhanging Dinosaur Park car park – reduce canopy height of 4m. T2 oak by green keepers' car park – Reduce overhanging limb by 3-4m.	Approved
20200405	The Old Workhouse, 120 Aylsham Road, Oulton	211	Walnut – fell.	Approved
20200407	5 Bulwer Close, Buxton With Lamas	TPO	Beech - reduce height 18.5m to 16m and reduce sides of tree by from current crown spread from 8.8m to 7.8m.	27/02/2020
20200421	Moorcroft, The Moor, Reepham	TPO	T1 plum - reduce height from 5 to 4m and thin by 10%. T2 pear - reduce height from 7m by 1.5m and thin by 15%. T3 pear - 7m high. Reduce centre stem by 2m. T4 apple – reduce height from 6m by 1m and thin by 15%. T5 apple - thin canopy by 15%. T6 apple - reduce height from 4m by 1m. T7 pear - poor specimen due to being over crowded by cherry. (T8). Reduce height from 4m by 1m and prune lateral limbs by 0.5m on western side to encourage better growth and balance. T8 & T9 cherry - reduce height from 8m to 5m and spread to 5m. Due to neglect T9 in particular has suffered storm damage due to the thickness of the canopy and the trees have grown into each other. Heavy reduction to allow both trees to generate new growth at a manageable size. T10 apple - 6m high, thin canopy by 15%. T11 apple - 6m high and too big for its environment and is also located over main sewer for the Moor – fell. T12 apple - 6m high, thin canopy by 20%. T13 pear - reduce height from 7m by 1m. Thin canopy by 15%. T14 apple - 3m high. Tree has been blown over by storms at some point and is a poor specimen. Fell.	Approved
20200430	Green Farm Bungalow, 109 The Street, Oulton	211	Yew outside Green Farm Cottage, Green Farm - tree is in close proximity to the rear of the house and with the needles dropping is causing damage to the guttering and downpipes.	02/03/2020
20200431	19 Breck Farm Lane, Taverham	TPO	T1 cedar – fell.	03/03/2020
20200438	Lion House, 5 Unicorn Yard, Aylsham	211	S1, S2 & S3 sycamore - fell and re-plant with combination of 3-5 wild cherry and rowan. B1 silver birch – fell. B2, B3, B4, B5 & B6 silver birch - current height approx 7m, reduce by approx 2m.	03/03/2020
20200440	Barn Cottage, 59 Plumstead Road, Thorpe End	211	3 x conifer - fell	Withdrawn
20200448	Land adjacent to 190 Drayton High Road, Drayton	211	T7 (Tag787) holly - remove dead stems and reduce remaining stems from 9m to 2m. T6 (Tag786) ash - remove larger pieces of deadwood. T3 (Tag783) sycamore - sever ivy growth on stem. Hedge 1 - remove dead stems and sever heavy ivy growth on hawthorn stems.	Approved
20200455	2 Chimes Way, Reepham	211	T1 willow - pollard from approx 6m to approx 3m. T2 apple - routine prune approx height 4m.	Approved
20200473	2 Church Lane, Burgh-Next-Aylsham	211	T1 4 x oaks along hedge line - reduce and crown thin, some branches very close to overhead power lines. T2 pine in the hedge line - reduce 30%. T3 alder in the hedge line – fell.	09/03/2020
20200484	23 Station New Road, Brundall	TPO	T1 sycamore - fell. T2 sycamore - reduce lateral branches on property side only from 6m to 4m, reduce height from 15m to 13m and remove 3 x suckering stems at base. T3 sycamore - remove secondary rubbing limb and reduce property side from 5m to 2.5m. T4 sycamore - remove 3 x suckers/saplings growing at base and reduce large limb on property side from 5m to 3m.	06/03/2020

20200496	Church Farm, 6 Booton Road, Cawston	211	T1 horse chestnut, T2 Norway maple and T3 sycamore - fell and replace with new trees. Area A - crown lift road side to 5.5m. G1 3 x conifers – fell.	Approved
20200501	108 Kingswood Avenue, Taverham	TPO	Removal of dead larch.	12/03/2020
20200517	The Conifers, 2B Breck Farm Lane, Taverham	TPO	Himalayan birch - crown reduce by 1.5m leaving a spread of 5 - 6m	12/03/2020
20200519	Postwick Lodge, 2 Cullings Hill, Postwick	TPO	T1 beech - reduction in height from 19m to 15-16m and reduction in spread on north from 10m to 8m, south from 8m to 6m, east from 11m to 9m and west from 12m to 10m. T2 beech - reduction in height from 20m to 17m and reduction in spread on north from 9m to 7m, south from 11m to 9m, east from 10m to 8m and west from 10m to 8m.	10/03/2020
20200639	Burgh House, Burgh Road, Aylsham	211	Beech in southern garden – fell due to <i>Meripilus giganteus</i> .	Approved
20200677	15 Charles Close, Wroxham	211	Removal of leylandii hedge on northern boundary.	Approved
20200685	23 Pinewood Close, Hellesdon	TPO	T1 & T2 hawthorn – fell. T3 & T9 lapsed hawthorn hedgerow – remove. T10 sycamore - remove two lower limbs and crown reduce by 2-2.5m (currently 12-13m tall).	Approved
20200686	66 Charles Close, Wroxham	211	Atlas cedar – fell.	24/03/2020
20200712	The Cardinals Hat, Back Street, Reepham	211	Birch closest to house: Removal and replacement planting	Approved
20200720	The White House, 66 Spixworth Road, Old Catton	211	T1 sycamore and T2 horse chestnut - reduce branches overhanging neighbours' garden to boundary.	31/03/2020
20200738	95 Garrick Green, Old Catton	TPO	T1 sycamore - crown clean and reduce back from building to give clearance by up to 3m on selected branches. T2, T5 and T7- sycamore - crown thin by 25% and raise to 5m. T3 oak - crown clean. T4 oak - crown clean and raise crown to 5m.	Approved
20200802	Oakapples, 12 Lower Street, Salhouse	TPO	T1 oak - reduce crown by approx 2 m and thin regrowth sections by up to 15.1 (HT 12 m W 9.5m). T2 lime - reduce crown by approx 2 to 2.5m (HT 13.5m W 7.5m)	27/03/2020
20200803	Top Barn, Broad Farm Upper Street, Salhouse	TPO	Leyland cypresses 8 to 9 m HT (13m) and 1 sycamore HT (10m) to be felled for site to be cleared after years of neglect for new landscaping. Note: fallen trees from storm will also be cleared	27/03/2020
20200810	16A Harvey Lane, Thorpe St Andrew	211	Lime - cut back to boundary edge of Plot 2.	Approved
20200819	46 Springfield Road, Taverham	TPO	T4 Lawson cypress and 2 x adjacent cypresses – remove.	02/04/2020
20200821	The Old Bank House Stables, 2 Burgh Road, Aylsham	211	<i>Sorbus</i> – fell.	03/04/2020
20200826	Daisy Cottage, 11 Upper Street, Salhouse	211	T1 silver birch - fell	Approved
20200831	63A Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew	211	G1 elder – remove. G2 & G3 yews – reduce southern and western crowns by 1m.	Approved
20200832	Finch Way, Beech Way, Cedar Way and Rose Walk, Brundall	TPO	T5 walnut - prune branch at 2m to east back to stem - branch encroaching into road. T29 sycamore, T61 grey poplar, T107 crack willow, T122 goat willow & T197 plum – fell. T53 Lawson cypress & T70 grey poplar - dead – fell. T117 lime - re-coppice - partially windthrown. T177 weeping willow - crown lift to 2m to allow maintenance.	Approved
20200836	The Orchards, 20 Norwich Road, Aylsham	211	T35 tulip - crown reduction from 27m to 24m in height and 10m to 7m in spread. Reduce end loading of crossing and rubbing sub-dominant stem and the low limb to the east with weak union.	Approved
20200844	127 Norwich Road, Wroxham	211	T1 conifer, T2 & T3 grand pine - reduce height from 20m by 6m & reshape crown. T4 Scots pine: current height approx 25m, fell. T5 conifer - reduce height from 15 m by 4.5m & reshape crown.	Approved
20200850	Ashwell House, 71 A Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech - reduce lateral branches growing on the eastern portion of crown over road towards the overhead utilities back to parent branches by 'drop crotching' (a reduction of around 3-4m).	16/04/2020
20200856	Drayton Woods, Drayton High Road, Drayton	TPO	63 x lime - crown raise to 4 - 5m.	Approved
20200857	Hillcrest, 25A South Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 holly, T2 silver birch and T3 spruce –fell. T4 Douglas fir reduce crown from 3m by 2.5m.	Approved

20200858	6B Westbourne Road, Coltishall	TPO	Lime x14 - removal of low and damaged branches to facilitate use of back garden.	16/04/2020
20200864	Speckled Wood, Pyebush Lane, Acle	TPO	T1 <i>Pinus nigra</i> - reduce crown by 1.5m, reducing height from 23m to 21.5m and crown spread from 12m to 10.5m. G2 Leyland cypress, T3 <i>Pinus nigra</i> , T4 ash (dead) and T3 – fell.	21/04/2020
20200865	52 The Warren, Old Catton	TPO	T1 red oak - reduce crown laterally; crown spread is 25m and will be reduced to 21m. Crown clean (remove maximum of 10% of crown) and remove of deadwood, crown lift to 2m. T2 tulip tree - crown lift over pathway to provide 2.5m clearance & prune away from overhead utilities to provide 0.5m clearance.	23/04/2020
20200866	305 Wroxham Road, Sprowston	TPO	T1 oak: remove as tree is failing.	16/04/2020
20200876	Land adjacent to 64 Lloyd Road / Scotch Hill Road, Taverham	TPO	T1 Scots pine - reduce crown by approx 2.5m to suitable pruning points. A1 conifer/Scots pine, conifer and Scots pine x 4 – fell. T5 Scots pine - reduce crown by up to 3m to suitable pruning point. G, T6, T7, T8, T9, h, T10, l, Scots pine & T12 conifer x 2 - fell.	Approved
20200883	29 Drayton Lodge Park, Drayton	TPO	T1 beech - reduce branch ends on the south-east side of tree by 3m to leave radius at 9m. T2 beech - reduce radius on south-east by 4m to leave radius at 10m on this side. T3 beech - reduce lowest branch over fence by 2.5m to leave remaining branch at 9.5m to allow light to flower bed.	21/04/2020
20200888	5 Church Street, Old Catton	211	T1 Scots pine - fell and replace with different species. T2 ash - fell and replace in suitable location.	21/04/2020
20200894	Ribblesdale, 26 Plumstead Road, Great Little Plumstead	TPO	T1 acacia and T2 to T8 leylandii – fell.	24/04/2020
20200899	6 Laundry Close, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech - reduce by 1.5m in order to re-shape crown and to alleviate conflict with surroundings and Installation of 4t dynamic bracing system at around 10m between the two bifurcated stems in order to alleviate stem failure at v-shaped union at 2.5m.	27/04/2020
20200903	Heydon Hall, The Street, Heydon	211	T1 oak - reduce crown to 11m. T2 & T4 oak - fell and replace. T3 ash - fell and replace with oak. T5 sycamore - fell and replace with hawthorn. T6 & T8 sycamore - fell and replace with wild cherry. T7 elm – fell.	24/04/2020
20200909	6 Western Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T20 oak - prune to first turn in LHS branch to lift weight and improve light to under-storey. T15 sycamore - lift canopy to give 1.5m clearance of telephone line and clearance for their bin lorry. T24 - sycamore - prune branch to lift canopy of Chapel Lane garden trees. T35 ash - reduction / removal down to stump or approx 1.8m main trunk to remove risk of dead branch fall. T72A and B - horse chestnuts, and ivy covered limbless trunk - reduce multi-stemmed trees, with epicormic growth to stumps. T03 sycamore - prune branch overhanging garden of No11 South Avenue to reduce weight.	28/04/2020
20200915	62 Charles Close, Wroxham	211	Cherry – dead – remove.	Approved
20200917	Open Space, Badersfield	TPO	T26 cherry - reduce crown by 2.5m to height of 9.5m. T72 crab apple - reduce tree height by 6m to 9m. T78 cherry - fell and replace. T96 silver birch: -remove broken branch. T115 bird cherry - remove decayed branch.	30/04/2020
20200926	5 Bure Way, Aylsham	211	Yew – fell.	Approved
20200927	Idle Hour, 67 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 beech - approx height 23m & radius approx 10-12m. Remove back to primary growth point or appropriate secondary growth point branches overhanging property on southern aspect, indicated on photo by red arrow. Main scaffold on southern aspect indicated by green arrow on photo, smaller branches on southern aspect of scaffold to be reduced to primary growth point.	Approved
20200936	Wintop House, 2 Church Lane, Burgh	211	G1 3 oaks & 1 ash - crown lift to 4.5m. T1 pine - crown lift to 4.5m. T2 alder – fell.	27/04/2020
20200940	25 Stony Lane, Reepham	TPO	3 x Leyland cypress - fell and replace with silver birch & rowan.	04/05/2020
20200942	Lucky For Some ,13 Millgate, Aylsham	211	Fir – fell.	29/04/2020

20200954	Dairy Farm Cart Lodge, Heydon Lane, Heydon	211	T1 and T2 holly – fell.	16/05/2020
20200955	4 Staitheaway Road, Wroxham	211	Silver birch – dead, remove.	Approved
20200962	42 Millgate, Aylsham	211	Conifer – fell.	04/05/2020
20200963	38 Keys Drive, Wroxham	TPO	T7 lime – fell.	06/05/2020
20200967	Holly House, 4 Stanmore Road, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 conifer - current height 9m, reduce height by 1.8m. Unknown tree like shrub - reduce to stump. Sycamores x 5 - reduce height from approx 9m to approx 1.8m.	11/05/2020
20200972	Wyevale Garden Centre, Blue Boar Lane, Sproston	TPO	T1 pine - reduce lower branches back to main stem where they overhang glass house to 9m and reduce higher branches back to appropriate points to retain live growth but reduce overhang over the glass house in order to take weight from the side over the glass house and reduce chances of failure of branches over the glass house. T2 pine - suppressed by T1 and has a very biased canopy and a lean over the glass house. Remove to a low stump which will also allow other more viable self-set trees (birch, oak and pine) in the area to grow. T3 sweet chestnut - in later stages of decline - coppice to give a chance to re-grow and reduce risk of failure onto glass house.	11/05/2020
20200976	Brundall County Primary School, Braydeston Avenue, Brundall	TPO	Tree Species as identified in submitted arboricultural Impact assessment along Braydeston Avenue - raise crown above road to 5.2m.	12/05/2020
20200978	The Copse, 3 Saint Andrews Park, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1, T4 and T5 ash - fell due to ash dieback. T2 ash - double stemmed ash, remove two lowest limbs growing toward the neighbours oak. T3 ash remove large snapped limb caught up in the nearby tree.	12/05/2020
20200982	Garth En Wold, 36 Woodland Drive, Great Little Plumstead	211	Cherry – dead – remove.	12/05/2020
20200989	Catton Court, Old Catton	TPO	T17 yew (adj 1 Catton Court) - reduce eastern crown from radius of 6.5m to 5.5m and southern crown from radius of 6.5m to 5.5m. T21 yew (front of Catton Court adj public footpath) - raise low branches to give clearance of 3m and reduce back from highway. Reduce crown radius to north from 5m to 4m and to west from 5.5m to 4.5m. T22 yew (adj back garden to rear of office) - reduce crown spread to north, south and west from 5.5m to 4.5m. Reduce crown radius to east from 4m to 3.5m. T23 yew (adj back garden to rear of office) - trim back stem shoots. Reduce crown radius to north, south east and west from 4.5m to 4m. T24 & T25 sycamores (on amenity green space area at front of Catton Court) - raise crown by removing stem shoots and secondary branches to give clearance of 4m. T26 birch (visitors car park) - reduce height from 18m to 14m and crown radius to north, south, east & west from 5.5m to 4m. T36 oak (amenity green space within Catton Court) - raise low branches over access drive to give clearance of 5m and to clear street light.	12/05/2020
20201000	The Grange, The Street, Heydon	211	Oak – fell.	14/05/2020
20201005	15 Birchwood, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech - crown lift to 6m to provide sufficient clearance over garden and to allow light in for planned vegetable patch.	Withdrawn
20201006	17 Belmore Close, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech - reduce crown by 2m and crown lift to 5m, crown clean and removal of deadwood (thin by a maximum of 10%). Current height around 20m and crown spread 22m. T2 beech - crown lift to 5m to provide sufficient clearance over surrounding gardens and outbuildings.	18/05/2020
20201007	6 Plumstead Road, Thorpe End	TPO	T1 Lawson cypress – fell. T2 silver birch - reduce height by 2m from 6.5m to 4.5m and crown thin by 20% in order to alleviate crossing branch issues.	18/05/2020
20201009	17 Belmore Close, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech - reduce crown by 1.5-2m in order to reduce effects of suppression by neighbouring beech tree and to match proposed work to neighbouring beech tree. Crown lift to 5m.	18/05/2020
20201021	Hall Lane, Drayton	TPO	Plum trees, beech and rowan - remove branches overhanging 33A Hall Lane.	19/05/2020

20201024	Serendipity, 10 South Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew,	211	T1 purple plum - height approx 8m, radius spread approx 4m. To crown clean and carry out all round reduction of height by approx 2-3m to 5-6m and laterals by about 1-1.5m to 2.5-3m. T2 magnolia - height approx 5m, radius spread approx 4m. To crown clean and reduce three main stems growing out of main crown by approx 2-3m, the rest of the canopy should remain untouched. T3 - standing stem - species unknown. To reduce in height for safety reasons, retaining for habitat. T4 oak - height approx 20m, radius spread approx 5-6m. Raise to approx 6m to main break in fork and reduce western aspect of crown by approx 1.5-2m.	20/05/2020
20201033	38 Wilks Farm Drive, Sprowston	TPO	Oak - trim branches back to border of the property.	19/05/2020
20201036	Roselle , 7 Oaklands Close, Halvergate	211	Poplar and twisted willow – fell.	19/05/2020
20201042	2 Old Rectory Close, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	G1 yews - reduce by 2m as part of ongoing arboricultural management and shade alleviation, removal of ivy and deadwood. Current height 10m to be reduced to 8m G2 holly - reduce by 1m as part of ongoing arboricultural management and shade alleviation. Current height 5m and 6m to be reduced to 4m and 5m.	22/05/2020
20201045	Cranleigh , 16 Woodland Drive, Great Little Plumstead	TPO	Pine – fell.	21/05/2020
20201074	35 Glenmore House, High Street, Foulsham,	211	Re-prune all overhanging branches from the surrounding self sown ash and willow trees. The extent of pruning will be carried out where possible to the full height of the trees reducing as much overhang as possible thus reducing all side lateral branches back in line with the boundary with no pruning cut made back by any more than 1.5m. This will improve the light through to the garden. The semi mature holly within the rear courtyard, to restrict its spread and to improve its shape and form, we would undertake selective remedial pruning of approx 300mm, shaping the tree into a more conical upright form.	21/05/2020
20201075	2 Harrold Close, South Walsham	TPO	T1 and T2 beech - reduce crown by approx 1.5m to leave finished height of 14m and crown radius of 4m on both trees to allow light and clearance to garden and bungalow. G1 group of Scots pine and beech trees planted as a woodland plantation- silvicultural thinning to remove the weaker and suppressed trees to allow the stronger trees to develop. The Scots pine proposed for removal have sparse crowns and are being crowded out. Thinning the plantation will allow it to develop and achieve the final tree spacing.	26/05/2020
20201076	2 Yare Valley Rise, Brundall	TPO	T2 lime - initial crown reduction from 25m to 15m followed by reduction to 5m within two years.	26/05/2020

Explanatory Notes:

- 1) App No is the unique Broadland District Council Planning Application number allocated to the application to carry out work and is the number by which progress of the application may be traced. Any comment, objection, support or request for information should quote this number.
- 2) Address is the address to which the application for work relates. In other words, it is the address where the trees for which the application is made are located.
- 3) Cat (ie Category) denotes the type of application. TPO = works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order; or
211 = Section 211 Notifications for Works to Trees Within Conservation Areas
- 4) Species / Requested Works is the species of the tree(s) concerned and details of the work proposed. A reference such as T1, T2 or G1 may also appear and that is simply a reference to the tree(s) on the TPO, Conservation Order or simply on the application.
- 5) Received is either the date on which the application was received by Broadland District Council or the actual decision.
- 6) This list is not intended to be a definitive list of all the relevant details. The reader should always refer to the specific application on the Broadland District Council "Planning Explorer" at <https://secure.broadland.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/GeneralSearch.aspx> to view the application or read the Council's decision.

Please Note

I have prepared this month's tables myself, using the on-line details on the Broadland District Council website. Whilst I believe that they are accurate, I cannot honestly guarantee that they are. I don't have the access to the database necessary to conduct a complete search and have had to compile the details "long hand". So, I apologise in advance for any errors that may come to light in the coming weeks. Hopefully, normal service will be resumed in July.