



Chairman's Comments

Dear members,

Please do tell your friends about the Aljos Farjon talk, it looks to be a really good evening at the University Centre, Frankwell on 12th March. For those of you who have not yet booked your tickets, see below for details of how to get one.

I have to thank those of you who came to the AGM and our organisers Andy, John and Peter who created a very interesting evening, with identification of conifers in containers and I want to thank all of you who sent in photos of trees; we saw around 50 pictures of trees from all over the world. All three of Andrew Allott's pictures were on the short-list so he was awarded the prize.

Only one member, Angela Hughes put her name forward to join the Committee this time round and we welcome her to the Committee. Our Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor expressed their intention to resign next year so please think it over in the next eleven months about offering yourself for one of these jobs.

We have still got some interesting plantings to undertake in Copthorne Park and at The Hurst. As always John provides full details below.

We need to find more places to plant trees, so please let us know if you know of any spaces where we can legally plant trees.

Regards

David Martin (chair)

Our March meeting on Tuesday 12th will be held in the University Centre, Frankwell at 7.30pm. We have been lucky enough to secure the services of Dr Aljos Farjon, formerly of Kew Gardens, who has recently published the definitive book on English oaks. He will speak to us on "Ancient Oaks in the English Countryside." This will be an all ticket meeting costing £3 for members and £6 for visitors. Refreshments will be available after the talk. Please purchase your tickets now, so as not to be disappointed. (Tickets are also available on line at Eventbrite). Please apply for your tickets to John Tuer at Evergreen, Woodside, Homer, Much Wenlock, TF13 6NQ. Please send a cheque **made out to Severn Tree Trust with a stamped addressed envelope.** There is still time!

Tree Planting

Thank you to all those of you who came out to plant the oaks and the hedge trees at The Hurst in February. We literally couldn't do the job without you. It was also excellent to see one of our new members who turned up to help. Thank you all.

The Hurst. Our next tree planting session will again be at The Hurst between Clunton and Clun. We shall continue the hedge that we were planting last time with another 500 trees. Please do come along to help if you can. Over the last 5 years, we have created a significant hedge in that local environment which has now marked out clearly the line of an old Mediaeval route from Clunton to Clun. Our job, now, is to continue that hedgeline along the house's main drive.

This session will be on **Friday, 8th March starting at 10.30am** please.

Instructions on how to get there are as before, but please see below:

Where is The Hurst ? From Shrewsbury, take the A49 to Craven Arms. Turn right at the main roundabout, signposted in the Clun direction (B4368), and carry on through Aston-on-Clun and Clunton. After Clunton, at a sharp right-hand bend in the road with a white house on your right, look for the drive for The Hurst on your left, signed at the main road. Go up the drive and you will see us on the right. We can direct you to the parking area. Please bring a spade and strong footwear and a flask of some refreshment if you like.

Now I ask you a favour please. This time, if you can come along, please please let me know beforehand (jandatuer@btinternet.com or 01952 727642). I don't have the trees yet. They are ordered and I'm promised them in time. But if they fail to arrive, we can't do the planting and I need to let you know. If you ring and I'm out, we have an answerphone. So please just say, this time, if you're coming.

I look forward to seeing many of you there.

The tree planting for Ruth Cresswell

I mentioned last time that we shall be planting a London Plane for one of our Presidents – Ruth Cresswell - who sadly died in 2015. I also mentioned that her family were coming up from the south coast for this planting. Since then, I have been told that the two sons will also be coming.....wait for it.....one from South Africa and the other from Hong Kong !! Yes really. That's why we shall be planting in the afternoon, to give them time to reach Shrewsbury from whichever airports they're arriving at.

So the date will be **Saturday, 16th March**, starting at 3.00pm.

Where ? We shall plant in Copthorne Park (we have permission). If you're going around Shrewsbury on the old Roman Road, turn off on Copthorne Road (B4386) towards town.

You'll pass the pub, The Beacon, on your left, then a new block of flats and immediately on your left you'll find the junction of Copthorne Park and Richmond Drive. We meet there.

Please come along if you can. And if you know of anyone who knew Ruth and David, please invite them along too.

John Tuer

Pruning of Linley Beeches

Instead of another planting session your Committee decided to offer the services of STT to prune about 50 beech trees some of which had been planted in 1977 to commemorate the Queen's 25th Jubilee and others by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust as replacement for dead trees in the iconic Linley Beeches near Norbury. These beech trees run for one and a half kilometres up the spine of Linley Hill to a height of nearly 400m and can be seen from all over south west Shropshire. First planted in 1750 as a double avenue, additional trees were added by estate workers who had served in the army to fight Napoleon and about 100 years ago a single avenue was added at the very top. **No formative pruning** had ever taken place on any of the Jubilee and later plantings. As two Committee members were to use chain saws it was decided to restrict this activity to a few invited members rather than to open the event to all members. In the end on 9th February seven members spent five hours on site pruning the lower branches, removing double leaders and trying to produce something that looked like a tree. Beforehand some looked more like Christmas Trees with branches all round to ground level, some were very distorted, possibly due to squirrel attack and some looked more like a weeping willow than a beech tree. All prunings were dragged to the track side. There must have been five large trailer loads for the estate workers to remove.

It is thought that members might like to visit the site. The Shropshire Way runs up the avenue. On a sunny day they are well worth a visit. A map of the area is attached to help you find them. Andy Gordon

