

Westonbirt

WINTER 2017

Five years
of progress

**Five years into the
Westonbirt Project**

Winter tree highlights

Westonbirt's winter world

Likin' lichen

STIHL®

Contents

COMPACT CORDLESS POWER. MADE BY STIHL.

Ready for the challenge.



Lithium-Ion
COMPACT

Lightweight, quiet and above all, powerful. Tackle your garden monsters with the new STIHL Compact Cordless System. Its balanced design, easy operation and interchangeable battery make it more than a match for any task. Challenge, accepted.

Find out more at your local STIHL Approved Dealer or visit

stihl.co.uk/CompactCordless

In this issue

News	6
Ted's Fright	19
Winter trail map	23
Family fun	28
Partner feature A botanical wonder in Wales	30
A collective masterpiece	33
Events	38
Crossword	40
Future of the Forestry Commission	41
The Westonbirt Wood Project	42
The Friends of Westonbirt team	43

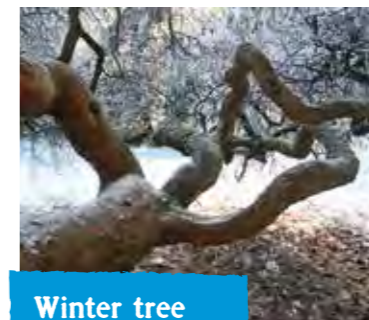


Cover image: © Jane Gifford

Features



Five years of progress 10



Winter tree highlights 22



Westonbirt's winter world 34



Likin' lichen 36

the friends
of Westonbirt
Arboretum



Westonbirt

Issue 110, Winter 2017: December, January, February © Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum. Reg. Company 4965522

Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury, Glos. GL8 8QS.

Tel. 0300 067 3300

Design:

Oyster Marketing and Design
hello@oysterdesign.co.uk
oysterdesign.co.uk

Print:

Stephens & George
stephensandgeorge.co.uk
Printed on Woodforce, sourced from responsibly managed forests. Mailed in recyclable polywrap. ISO14001.

Editorial team:

Sarah Malina
Rebecca Hare
Heather Lilley

Views expressed in the Westonbirt magazine are not necessarily those of Friends of the Westonbirt Arboretum or the Forestry Commission. Every effort is made to check factual accuracy, but no guarantees are expressed or implied. In particular, readers should satisfy themselves about the authenticity of products advertised.

Welcome to the winter edition of your Westonbirt Magazine



It's hard to believe that we are only a few weeks away from Christmas. Don't forget to book your tickets for Enchanted Christmas - last year the tickets sold out! Members receive a 50 per cent discount on adult tickets on the Friday nights too.

The end of this year will see the conclusion of the Heritage Lottery funding that Westonbirt received for The Westonbirt Project five years ago. In addition to some of the obvious structural changes, we are incredibly proud of the ways that our community programme has encouraged and enabled under-represented groups to engage with the trees and beautiful landscape here at the arboretum. Over 4,700 people from 133 community organisations have benefited from the therapeutic qualities of the arboretum, picking up new life skills and learning about the importance of conservation and protecting our natural heritage. Read about all of the project's achievements on pages 10-15.

On page 42-43 we also bring you news of an exciting new venture to restore a key feature within the arboretum landscape. The Westonbirt Wood Project will enable us to promote a better understanding of trees and timber, and showcase the life-cycle of trees at Westonbirt from tiny seeds to veteran specimens.

Our membership community has been vital to the charity's ability to support this wonderful work, both over the past five years and into the future. Thank you, once again, for your support.

Anna-Clare

Anna-Clare Temple
Chief Executive

What is an arboretum?



Hopefully you had a chance to see our autumn poetry installation? If not, a record is still available at marchantbarronwords.org. Like all great art Marchant's work was intended to be thought provoking and I was delighted at the response it received.

Marchant said on Autumnwatch that his words will have worked if people saw the trees differently. He made me think differently not just about the trees but the whole arboretum. Marchant described the arboretum as a 'library of trees', an analogy I hadn't thought of before. But yes, a library with a catalogue of 15,000 volumes made up of over 2,800 unique titles.

Like any good library we have reference works. Those species of tree that are threatened in their natural environment but finding a refuge at Westonbirt, a genetic resource should we ever need to repopulate the Avon gorge with the Bristol whitebeam or reintroduce Farrer's spruce to Yunnan province in China. Our recently published *Little book of disappearing trees* describes 40 such trees and where to see them at Westonbirt.

When we publish it in 2018, our new strategy will set out our ambitions to take forward these twin themes of science and art. An arboretum with a purpose: conserving the world's temperate trees and helping increase our knowledge of them, but also a heritage landscape of amazing beauty from which we can derive great pleasure and, every so often, art that might help us to think differently.

Andrew

Andrew Smith
Arboretum Director

Membership is a wonderful gift

“ It's a lovely gift that gives people so many happy days out and helps us to maintain the arboretum. ”

Anna-Clare Temple

▲ Credit: Pete Thompson

If you're looking for a Christmas gift for friends or family, membership could be the perfect choice. It's a gift they'll enjoy every time they visit the arboretum, or any one of our eight reciprocal attractions that membership provides free entry to. And, of course, it helps to maintain this incredibly important environmental resource.

As well as the beautiful grounds and inspiring tree collection, members can enjoy our restaurant and facilities all year around. Children and grandchildren of members aged 18 and under receive free entry too.

To buy membership for friends or family, visit fowa.org.uk/become_a_member or ask for a membership form on your next visit.

Ten year membership also available! Please email membership@fowa.org.uk for prices.

It's a wonderful space for children and adults alike, and there's early booking for events like Forest Live and our Enchanted Christmas. Membership also includes free subscription to our quarterly magazine with regular updates on events and interesting articles about our work, the trees and the natural world around us.



Guess who's lost in the deep dark wood

The sculpture of the Gruffalo in the Old Arboretum has always been a favourite with families. We are thrilled to announce that Gruffalo has been joined by beautiful sculptures of Fox, Owl, Snake, Squirrel and, of course, Mouse, to make up Westonbirt's very own Gruffalo Wood.

Carved from Forestry Commission sustainable oak, and exquisitely painted, the sculptures are a huge attraction for young families. After meeting the Gruffalo, families can explore the arboretum and enjoy our amazing collection of trees.

Find the Gruffalo and his friends in the new Gruffalo Wood in the Old Arboretum.

Back App and Running

Here at Westonbirt, we're always on the lookout for exciting new ways to engage people with the wonderful trees we care for. In August 2015, we launched our very own TreeQuests app. The app enables you to discover new species, learn some awesome facts and fully explore the arboretum.

The app has been unavailable in recent months due to technical difficulties with the beacons (small white boxes that connect via Bluetooth to alert users when they are approaching a particular tree). However, we are pleased to announce that the beacons are now back up and running.

You can download the TreeQuests app online at the App or Google Play stores. [Find out more about the App on Page 16.](#)



Party time at Westonbirt

Learning with Nature, Westonbirt's learning partner, are introducing children's parties and uniformed community group visits (such as Cubs and Guides) to the arboretum. They have already carried out trial parties and visits, which proved very popular.

With these new activities for young people and an increase in school visits, we aim to increase the number of young people engaged with the arboretum, and encourage a lifetime's love of trees and the natural world.

For more information contact: chrissie@learning-with-nature.org or to book a party: parties@learning-with-nature.org

Mobility shuttle's maiden journey

The new mobility shuttle made its maiden journey on Saturday 30 September. The shuttle is now up and running four days a week on a Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, 10.30am to 4.00pm, (dependant on volunteer driver availability).

This is a trial timetable that will run through the winter, concluding at the end of February 2018. For more information please visit the website and remember, if you are visiting and want to use the service please call in advance to check it's running.

Thank you to our team of 20 volunteers who have signed up to help with the trial and those who have expressed an interest in helping.



The mobility shuttle helped out when the Gruffalo came to visit.

If you want to use the service please call us on 0300 067 4861 or visit www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-6xcmjg

Autumn Memories

You had lots to share about the spectacular autumn colours at Westonbirt this year - we've picked out a selection of your social media highlights.

f The Autumn colours at Westonbirt Arboretum are beautiful! We enjoyed collecting treasures to explore...
Aimee's childminding

f Great trip to @WestonbirtArb. Awesome autumn colours and bumper berry/seed crop too. Well worth the 200 mile round trip! #autumncolours.
Shelagh McCartan

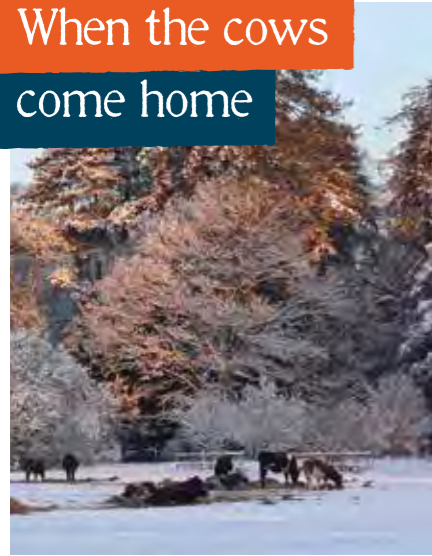
t Westonbirt is just fabulous at this time of year. Well worth a visit. Glad I became a member of @WestonbirtArb so I can pop in anytime.
Katie Doble-Birch

t An absolutely glorious day to appreciate the Autumn colours at Westonbirt Arboretum. Wish you could bottle these trees.
Alyson Ryan

f Walking round Westonbirt Arboretum this afternoon. Such beautiful #trees and glorious #colours, even on this grey day. The sound of the #breeze through the #leaves and the smell of Autumn in the air. It was a wonderful way to spend the afternoon.
Robyn Harris

t Miraculous maples - when November skies leaden, they're a feast for your colour-starved eyes.
Peter Gaskell

When the cows come home



We are delighted that we will once again be grazing our downland this winter. A neighbouring farmer will be bringing a small number of native rare breed Gloucester cattle to graze here for short periods over the winter.

The cows create a healthy and varied habitat by using their tongues to pull vegetation into their mouths, so they don't graze too close to the ground. This leaves tufts of grass in which insects can live, helping to maintain a more diverse number of species.

Whilst the cattle are docile and will often keep away from people, we do ask visitors to take care when near the cattle and to keep dogs on leads.

A bumper year for awards



It's been a really exciting year for Westonbirt, as we see the culmination of many years of hard work and the fruits of your incredible support.

The arboretum has enjoyed a bumper year for awards. The STIHL Treetop Walkway has collected no fewer than eight different awards this year, including from CPRE Gloucestershire, Civic Trust and RIBA. The Wolfson Tree Management Centre has also secured recognition from RIBA and the Structural Timber Awards.

Ben Oliver and Susanna Byers accepted the runner up award in the target audience category at the AHI (Association of Heritage Interpretation) awards in October. Ben got the audience to stand up and move like trees!

Thanks to Bernard

Bernard Rymer, our Finance Trustee, left in August.

For several years, Bernard took up the mantle to lead us through the Westonbirt Project ensuring our cash continued to flow and the charity remained in a financially stable position. Bernard has offered tremendous support, both to the charity and to Westonbirt over his time with us.

On behalf of our trustees, the staff and all at Westonbirt, we thank Bernard for his significant contribution and wish him and his wife Jane, and Fibber the dog, all the very best for the future.

Anna-Clare Temple, Chief Executive



Business meetings in the forest

Our magnificent Great Oak Hall is available for weekday hire for seminars, conferences, workshops and training sessions.

Escape the office and find inspiration at the heart of the arboretum's 600 acre tree collection.

What's more, the proceeds raised from hire directly fund and support the charity's objectives and benefit the arboretum. Attendees are granted access to the whole site and can enjoy spending time in this beautiful landscape.

Hire the Great Oak Hall

Contact **0300 067 3301** email **greatoakhall@fowa.org.uk** or visit our website.

Your hire includes:

- Use of auditorium (11m x 7m) and foyer
- Breakout space to explore the arboretum
- Easy access and free parking
- Capacity of 80 delegates
- Audio-visual presentation
- Flip chart
- Wi-Fi
- On-site caterers

From £315

Looking for that perfect Christmas gift?

Discover the arboretum come wind rain or snow with the cutting edge outdoor clothing and equipment from Cotswold Outdoor. Whether you're exploring close to home or far and wide, our friends at Cotswold Outdoor can help you prepare for any adventure.

Plus, with a 15% discount* for Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum you can pick up an amazing outdoor gift and still have enough left for a few stocking fillers. Discover their amazing Christmas gifts now in-store, or browse the full range online at cotswoldoutdoor.com/christmas

*Full T&Cs apply. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Selected lines are exempt. Only valid upon production of your membership card in store or use of discount code AF-FOWA-22 online. Offer expires 31.12.18.



COTSWOLD
outdoor

Five years of progress

In 2012 we received fantastic news. We had been awarded a £1.9 million Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant towards Phase One of the Westonbirt Project, which would bring significant improvements to the arboretum and our visitors' experience.

The HLF grant, along with £2.4million received from individuals and trusts, has enabled us to create the Biffa Award Welcome Building and visitor car park, to restore the Grade 1 downs landscape and historic boundaries, and to deliver an exciting range of activities. I thought this would be a good time to reflect on some of our achievements since the award.

Since the formal proposal to improve visitor facilities in 2002, we have been planning and fundraising to make the project a reality. Work on the main car park began shortly after the grant announcement, followed by the Biffa Award Welcome Building. The grant also helped us restore the Grade 1 landscape and heritage features. It gave us the flexibility to try new things, such as working with excluded audiences by creating community programmes for young people and older adults, who may have previously felt unable to visit the arboretum for a variety of reasons. The project has been a huge success, exceeding all our expectations. I am delighted to say that we have now appointed a permanent Community Co-ordinator to continue this important work.

It's amazing to look back at photos and to see how much has been achieved. And really exciting to know so many people have benefited thanks to the HLF. Seeing community participants learning about coppicing and enjoying the benefits of the arboretum, spotting visitors looking for and learning about some of the worlds most threatened trees through our free *Little Book of Disappearing Trees*, and knowing people are exploring and understanding so much more about the arboretum, makes it all so worthwhile.

“ As a Grade I site on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens, Westonbirt is in the top 10 per cent of designed and culturally important landscapes in England.

The world-renowned [old] arboretum is, perhaps, the jewel in the crown of the wider Westonbirt landscape but by the 1990's it was apparent that it had started to become a victim of its own success. Visitors' first impressions were of a sprawling car park, the arboretum was glimpsed somewhere in the distance and there was no real sense of, or point of, arrival.

The success of the HLF project can be judged by the steady increase in visitor numbers since the project was completed. Westonbirt was already one of the most popular heritage attractions in the South West. It is now even more so. ”

Historic England



Sophie Nash, Project Manager reflects on the achievements of the past five years.

Then



Now



Our humble hut has been replaced by the wonderful new Biffa Award Welcome Building for visitors.

What we've achieved in Phase One since 2012

Phase One of the Westonbirt Project has been a huge success and achieved so much for the arboretum and our visitors. Here are just some of the wonderful things that have been achieved.



LOTTERY FUNDED

£1.9 million

of the £4.3 million Phase One funding for the Westonbirt Project was provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund



One lovely new Welcome Building and interpretation on how we look after Westonbirt and who founded the arboretum



Over 4,700 people involved in community projects



14,915 square meters of newly restored downland



Over 400 metres of Cotswold stone walls rebuilt



Restoring or reinstating 1.4km of traditional railings and 1.0km of ha-ha

Much needed maintenance

The project saw a major programme of boundary improvements with traditional dry stone walls and railings reinstated or reinstated as part of the heritage landscape.



Running 526 sessions with community groups

Community involvement

We've reached out to over 4,600 people and involved them in community projects. This has included people of all ages and situations. We've not only engaged people on site but taken a little slice of Westonbirt to those who are unable to visit us.

We've worked with over 133 community organisations



Beautiful new downland

Our newly created downland is flourishing with an abundance of plants and animals enjoying the new habitat. You may have read about our BioBlitz in the last addition of the magazine, here's a reminder of the number of just some species found on the downland.



23 types of Butterfly

239 Flora species



12 types of Bees

(These are the three key things we have monitored over the last five years.)



Sculptured shelter Our mark in time

Westonbirt's HLF funded community programme has now been running for over four years! Our community engagement officers and volunteers have done a wonderful job organising activities that connect the arboretum with a wider audience. The activities engage people with the therapeutic qualities of the arboretum and help to stimulate interest in our incredible tree collection and the natural world. Thanks to Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum funding, we are delighted to report that this work will be continuing beyond the end of the HLF funding.



Karen, Community Officer, splitting wood for shingles.

We wanted to find a way to commemorate Westonbirt's community programme, that has involved over 4,700 people so far. Inspired by their overnight camps in Silkwood and green woodworking skills, our Wild Westonbirt youth group came up with the solution - a shelter sculptured from 400 shingles (shaped roof tiles) hand-made from Westonbirt oak.

Guided by Brian, Amy and Louis, our resident coppicers at the arboretum, participants, volunteers, staff, and even members of the public, have cut, split and shaped 400 shingles. Community groups and individuals decorated the shingles with messages and reflections about their time here. As new groups joined the community programmes throughout the summer, more shingles were added to the pile.

With young people teaching adults and group members teaching their support workers, it wasn't just the shingle pile growing, but also a sense of belonging to something very special.

“It's been wonderful working with community groups for the past four years, giving people who wouldn't normally get to visit the arboretum the chance to come and connect with the trees. As the pile of shingles grew, so did the participants' confidence, pride, and sense of achievement; this was truly inspiring to watch. Young people had the opportunity to teach adults, and group members instructed their support workers.”

Karen Price, Community Officer

Once the shingles had been produced, it was over to the Estate Volunteer team who rolled up their sleeves to weather proof the shingles by oiling each one. The construction of the shingle structure took place this autumn. Wild Westonbirt were joined by Nelson Trust, AWP, Appley Centre and friends and family, to erect the internal frame and start attaching the individual shingles.

Next time you're at Westonbirt, why not visit our sculptured shingle shelter near Ted's Fright in Silkwood.



The finished shingle sculpture



Participants added quotes and thoughts to the shingles

Learning about the trees

As part of the Westonbirt project we've really enjoyed developing visitor learning resources. Here's a quick round up of what's on offer, all of which were funded by the HLF money. Due to funding from the Friends, our community work will be continuing beyond the end of the HLF funding.

TreeQuests, our tree discovery app



TreeQuests is a great app that provides loads of information about the trees in a really fun way.

It does exactly what it says, taking you on a quest to discover 50 trees across the site. You can opt for the basic 'explore' mode that automatically informs you when you've found one of the trees and tells you all about it. Or if you fancy the challenge, 'quest' mode introduces lots of challenges and rewards you with bronze, silver and gold medals.

The app is free to download via the App Store for iOS and Play store for Android.

Our TreeQuest App has been downloaded **6,000** times

Four new specialist trails

Birt's I Spy • Threatened Trees Arts • Picture Perfect

Birt's I Spy Adventure for children



Birt's I Spy Adventure is a lovely activity booklet for children between three and six years old.

The booklet follows Birt, our resident wood chipper, to find out how the team look after the trees. There's lots of things to spot and fun activities to enjoy.

Pick up your free Birt's I Spy Adventure booklet at the Welcome Building, the Westonbirt Shop, the Tree Management Centre or download it at the Forestry Commission's website.

Picture Perfect trail



Our trees are carefully planted to create a picture perfect landscape.

Picture Perfect is a new trail that takes you around eight beautiful locations and uses a cut-out viewfinder to show how a professional photographer might frame the shot. It's ideal for visitors interested in photography, our heritage and seeing the landscaping with fresh eyes. Each location has a small panel giving information about the view.

Pick up the trail map from the Welcome Building and use the cut-out viewfinder as you follow the trail.

Little Book of Disappearing Trees



A handy pocket-sized booklet that looks at 40 tree species that have been assessed as at risk of extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Find out about the threats they face, how we can help, and Westonbirt's role as a botanic collection. Each specimen has a white label to help you find them.

Pick up your copy from the Welcome Building.

Follow one of our trails when you're next here and get more from your visit.



The definition of charcoal: A black, porous, carbonaceous material, 85 to 98 per cent carbon, produced by the destructive distillation of wood and used as a fuel, filter, and adsorbent.

Smoke on the horizon

Mark Ballard, Curator, tells us about the new kiln in Silk Wood.



Silk Wood has been sustainably managed for many centuries, principally with a short rotation under-storey of hazel coppice and a long rotation over-storey of oak standards. We are very fortunate that this practice still continues today, allowing our many visitors to witness first hand all that is involved in these traditional operations.

The production of charcoal has long been an important end process to this traditional management, and I am pleased to say that this still goes on today, and can even be witnessed from time to time at the end of the STIHL treetop walkway in Silk Wood.

Unfortunately, the two existing metal ring kilns, which we allow our resident coppice workers to use, were inherited, and are now very old and in poor condition. Thankfully the Friends of Westonbirt have agreed to fund the purchase of a brand new, state-of-the-art kiln to ensure that this activity can continue. At the time of writing, we are awaiting delivery and installation of an Exeter Retort Kiln, which you may have seen demonstrated live at the Arb Show here in May.

The Exeter Retort kiln produces high quality barbecue charcoal and biochar in a fraction of the time taken by traditional ring kilns. Environmentally, the retort releases approximately 75 per cent fewer pollutants to the atmosphere than ring kilns.

Some of the main advantages include

- **Short burn time** – from four hours to eight hours, from lighting to shut down.
- **Can pyrolise any type of wood** – logs to twigs.
- **Cleaner in operation** – up to 75 per cent fewer pollutants released.
- **More efficient** – 100 per cent of wood is pyrolised, with no ash or waste.
- **Temperature readout** – integrated digital thermometer.
- **Large retort chamber** – 1.7 cubic metres.
- **Easy to operate.**

What's it like to be a Westonbirt volunteer?

Westonbirt relies on our incredible team of volunteers to help maintain the arboretum and ensure our visitors enjoy their day out. We're extremely grateful for all their hard work. We asked some of our volunteers about their role, here's what they had to say:



“ After I retired I wanted to do something useful. I'm a keen gardener so volunteering in such a beautiful place was a great option. It's great to feel I'm doing something for the community and I get loads of satisfaction from my role. ”

John Butcher: Tree Team volunteer

“ I love helping out with the family events and school visits. I'm retired and I wanted to contribute locally. I work with a great bunch of people. This is a top class attraction and I really enjoy being involved with so many visitors. ”

Ann Wakley: learning team



“ I've only been volunteering since May this year. I was mentored during May and June, and became a fully-fledged volunteer from July. It's a beautiful environment to work in and I'm learning so much about the landscape and trees. I really enjoy talking to visitors and I work with a great bunch of people. ”

Gillian Hatton: Welcome Building volunteer

“ Volunteering here is not just a great pleasure but a privilege. Helping to preserve an internationally important collection of trees gives me an enormous amount of satisfaction, it's great fun, absorbing and stimulating. Plus it helps me get my exercise regularly! ”

Martin Green: volunteer guide



If you're interested in being a volunteer we'd love to hear from you. www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-volunteering

Ted's Fright



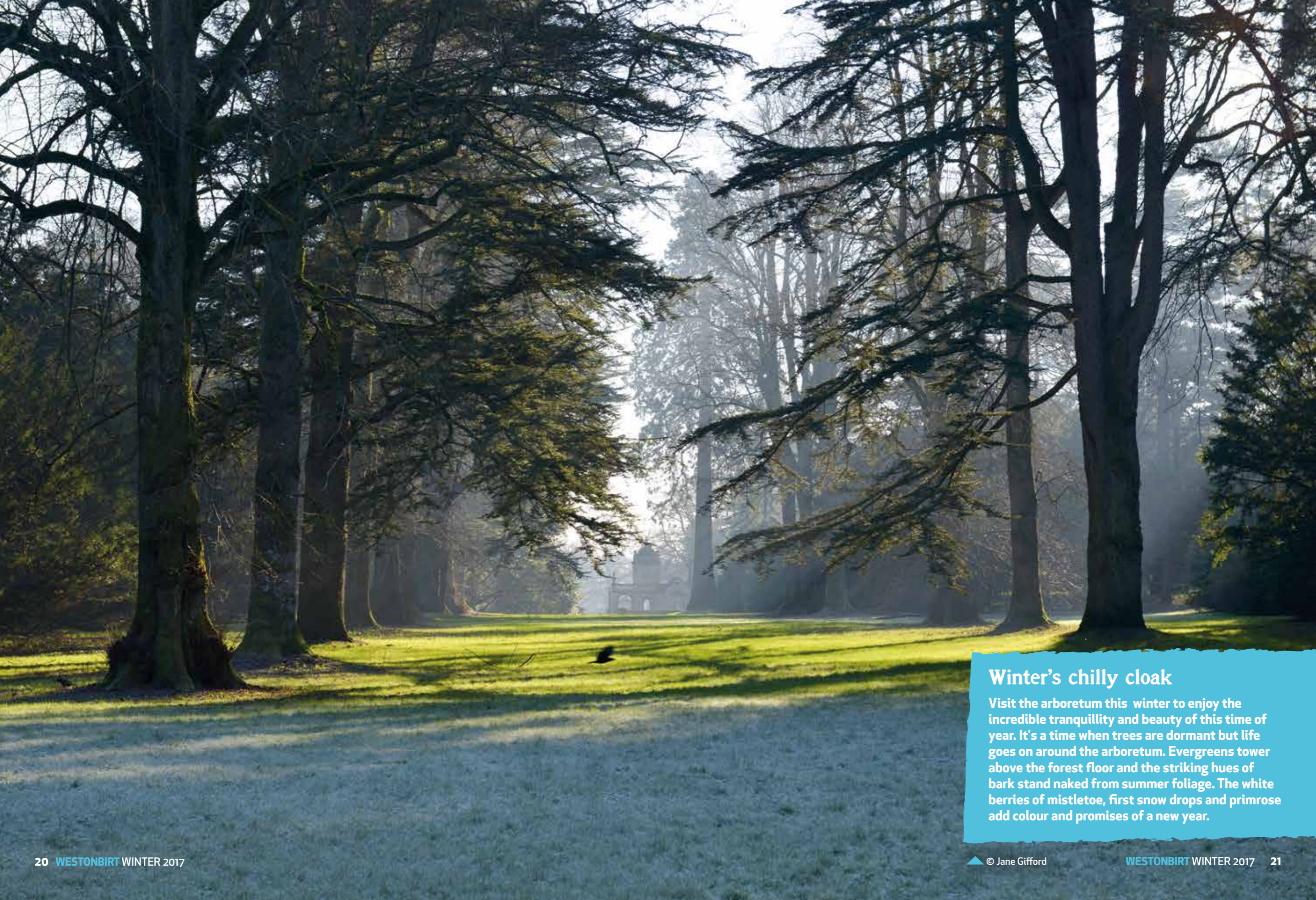
Many years ago, too far back for most of us to remember, Ted, one of the Tree Team was driving a tractor through an overgrown area of Silk Wood, only to find himself teetering precariously over the edge of an abyss. From then on this old quarry was called Ted's Fright.

In 2011 the hole was transformed into an enormous climbing frame for children to clamber and crawl on. The idea was to create something similar to giant tree roots erupting from the ground. With six huge nine metre tree trunks weighing around three tonnes each and a couple of elderly trucks to help lift the trunks into position, all was completed in a day. This was grown-ups playing with sticks on a major scale!

Ted's Fright allows children to create and explore their own imaginative worlds; increasing their dexterity and cognitive skills, negotiating with their friends and making up their own rules. For those watching, just stand back and marvel at how amazing children can be when left to their own devices.

Our plan going forward is to replace the ageing play areas in the Old Arboretum with even more inventive installations, encouraging young visitors to understand the natural world around them. Ted would appreciate that!





Winter's chilly cloak

Visit the arboretum this winter to enjoy the incredible tranquillity and beauty of this time of year. It's a time when trees are dormant but life goes on around the arboretum. Evergreens tower above the forest floor and the striking hues of bark stand naked from summer foliage. The white berries of mistletoe, first snow drops and primrose add colour and promises of a new year.

Winter tree highlights



Winter has its own magical feel. It can be invigorating and windy or still and a little eerie. The deciduous trees have dropped their foliage, leaving evergreens to enjoy centre stage. Westonbirt's dendrologist, Dan Crowley, picks out some monotypic examples of Westonbirt's cypress family.

The cypress family, *Cupressaceae*, is one of the most commonly encountered in parks and gardens, represented by a relatively small number of species but a wealth of cultivars and hybrids of all shapes and sizes, with no shortage of different colours. The world's largest tree by volume – giant redwood, *Sequoiadendron giganteum* – and also the world's tallest – coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens* – are also members of the cypress family.

As well as these more common trees, the family contains a number of genera that are rather less well known, but no less significant. A number of these are also monotypic (i.e. the genus contains only one species) and are an important component of the Westonbirt collection.

 The golden Vietnamese cypress, *Xanthocyparis vietnamensis*, is fantastically interesting. This is partly because its discovery in 1999 led to the describing of a new genus, including this species and Nootka cypress, *X. nootkantensis*, transferred from *Chamaecyparis* as a result of this discovery. It is unusual for often having juvenile, transitional and mature foliage on branches of mature trees. This character is found only naturally in a small number of other trees. Native to parts of north Vietnam and southern China, **it was introduced in the early 2000s and plants are proving to be hardy at Westonbirt, thus far.**

Pull out map

Winter seasonal trail map



Why not use our handy pull out map for a winter visit to the arboretum? You'll find all the trees discussed in our *Winter tree highlights* article identified on the map to help you discover the secrets of winter at Westonbirt.

These symbols mark some of the spectacular trees worth seeking out on your next winter visit...



Golden Vietnamese cypress - we have over a dozen plants in the collection now and are observing their performance in different conditions across the site.



Tree guide

- Golden Vietnamese cypress
- Chilean cedar
- Chinese arbor-vitae
- Alerce
- Taiwania

Chinese arbor-vitae - as well as growing well at Westonbirt, it is widely grown in many parts of the world. Native to Asia, it is difficult to establish its true natural range due to its ability to spread.



Chilean cedar - though commonly known as a 'cedar', it is not closely related to the true cedars in the genus Cedrus. Common names can be confusing!



Alerce – some botanists believe this species to be the second-longest living trees on Earth. The trees wouldn't look out of place in Jurassic Park!



Taiwania – The genus is named after the island of Taiwan, from where it first became known to the botanical community in 1910.

The Chinese arbor-vitae, *Platycladus orientalis*, is closely related to the genus *Thuja*, which contains the well-known western red cedar, *T. plicata*, and was originally placed within this genus. However, it differs from *Thuja* in foliage and fruit, with the presence of the latter always useful in determining genera in the cypress family. In foliage, the two genera can be separated by the leaf sprays of the Chinese arbor-vitae with both sides indistinguishable from each other, whereas *Thuja* have paler, sometimes white undersides. The foliage of *Thuja* species is aromatic when crushed, whilst that of Chinese arbor-vitae is pretty odourless. It's always worth having a sniff!

All three members of the cypress family native to South America are represented at Westonbirt. They also all belong to monotypic genera. One of these, Chilean cedar, *Austrocedrus chilensis*, has an interesting characteristic, in that whilst it can grow with a rounded crown in the wild, in cultivation it has a rather upright habit. This feature is shared with other members of the cypress family, including the Incense cedar, *Calocedrus decurrens*. **Our examples are all young trees and we hope that they eventually perform a similar role to that of the incense cedar in the landscape in years to come.**

The second of the South American trio is alerce, *Fitzroya cupressoides*. Like many coniferous species, it is threatened with extinction in its native habitat and is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It is also listed on Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). A third of cypress family representative from South America, *Pilgerodendron uviferum*, are also included in this list, with international trade of these species banned. Until recently, genetic stock of alerce in cultivation was very narrow. The work of the International Conifer Conservation Programme, led by RBG Edinburgh, has somewhat boosted this and as a partner organisation, **we grow plants as part of this initiative.**

Clues to the identification of plants are often in the name, and the specific epithet of *Taiwania cryptomerioides* denotes its likeness to another member of the cypress family, Japanese cedar, *Cryptomeria japonica*. It is the juvenile foliage of the *Taiwania cryptomerioides* that resembles the adult foliage of Japanese cedar, with no examples in UK cultivation yet to develop adult foliage. **One of our young plants is growing particularly well, though while it grows to 60 metres in its native Taiwan, we might be a little too optimistic to expect it to attain the same stature here!**



Don't forget to pull out the map and take it with you. Discover the expert's seasonal picks on your next visit!

FAMILY FUN



Looking back in time

Fossils are the remains of life from millions of years ago that have been preserved under just the right conditions.

Scientists use these fossils to understand how plants and animals survived and adapted over millions of years.

Credit: Yorkshire Fossils



Fossilised trees

Can you spot these ancient trees on your next trip to Westonbirt?

✓ Monkey Puzzle

This tree was alive 200 million years ago alongside the dinosaurs! Its needles are thick, stiff, sharp and spiky, to try and stop dinosaurs eating them.

See if you can spot one at Westonbirt!



▲ Credit: Louisa Lockwood

✓ Ginkgo

Fossils of leaves related to our existing ginkgo date back 270 million years. Dinosaurs such as a diplodocus would have eaten them!

Only the Ginkgo biloba is around today. It's one of the world's oldest living tree species.



▲ Credit: Juan Carlos López

✓ Dawn Redwood

Fossils have been found which show the dawn redwood tree dates back 100 million years! Dawn redwood forests that grew during this time would have provided shade, cover and food for dinosaurs like the triceratops!



▲ Credit: Gina Mills



▲ Credit: Anders Sandburg

Did you know?

During the **Triassic** (about 251 million to 199 million years ago), **Jurassic** (199 million to 145 million years ago) and early **Cretaceous** (145 million to 65 million years ago) periods a lot of the trees that grew were conifers such as the monkey puzzle tree.

- **Coal is made from trees and plants that got squished under the ground millions of years ago.**
- **Most coal was made about 360 million to 290 million years ago when dinosaurs were alive.**
- **As the plants and trees died, they were covered up deep under the ground. It was really hot down there and everything got squeezed together, which changed the plant material into coal.**
- **The energy we get from burning coal is actually the energy those amazing plants stored millions of years ago.**

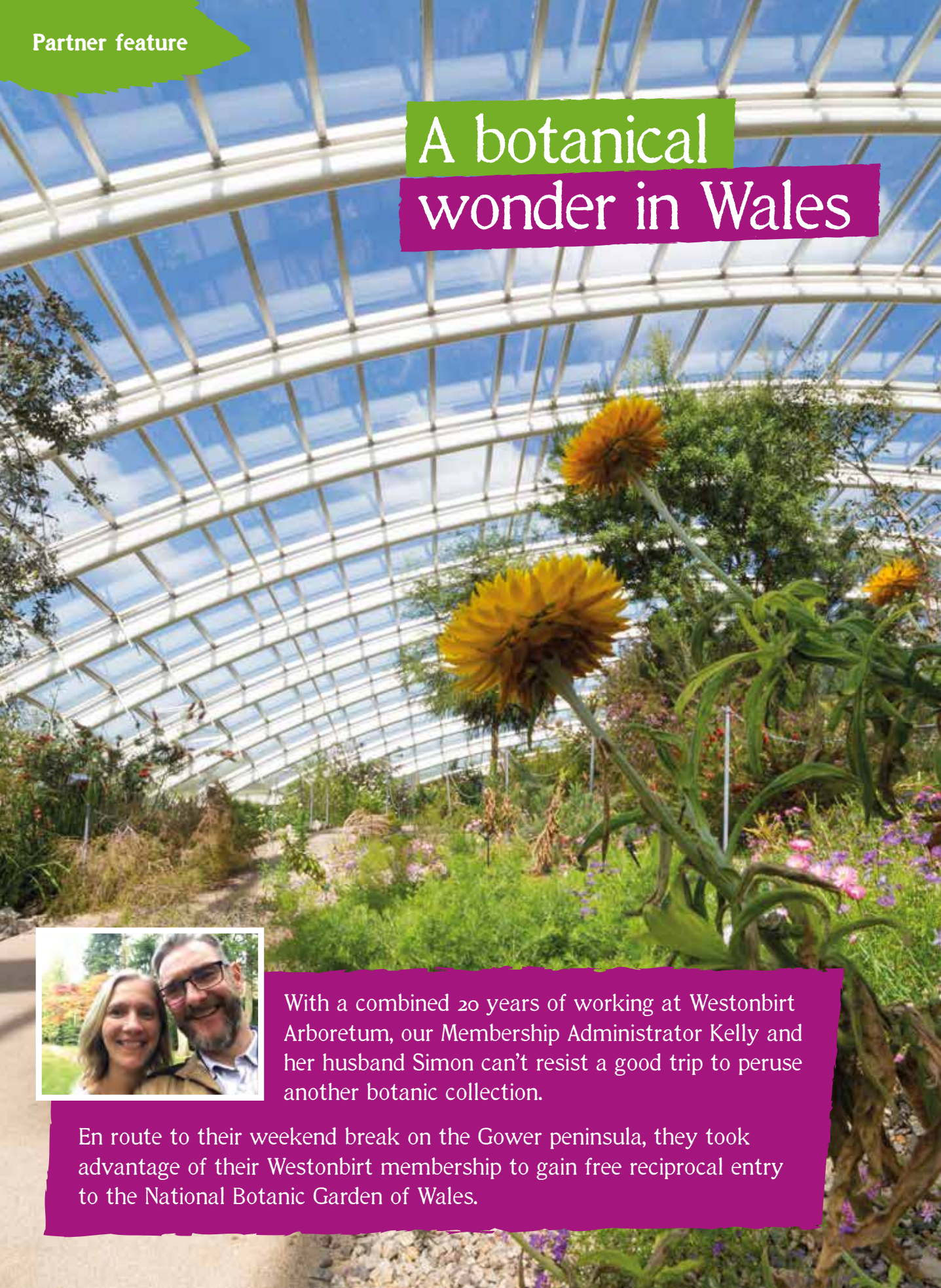

Make your own fossil

You will need:

1. Clay or Plasticine/play dough
2. Leaf
3. Rolling pin

- Roll out your clay to 1 cm thick
- Place your leaf on the clay and roll over it, gently pressing the leaf into the clay
- Carefully remove the leaf
- Allow to dry – **well done, you've made your own fossil!**

A botanical wonder in Wales

With a combined 20 years of working at Westonbirt Arboretum, our Membership Administrator Kelly and her husband Simon can't resist a good trip to peruse another botanic collection.

En route to their weekend break on the Gower peninsula, they took advantage of their Westonbirt membership to gain free reciprocal entry to the National Botanic Garden of Wales.



As the most visited garden in Wales, we were looking forward to discovering the assortment of themed gardens, lakes and interesting plant life on offer at the botanic garden. Being just a two-hour drive from Westonbirt we were surprised we hadn't made the trip before, but better late than never!

Passing through the friendly visitor gatehouse, we spotted a shuttle buggy ferrying visitors to the main parts of the garden. The reason for this quickly became clear as we set off and realised that the site was predominantly laid out on a hill. Never ones to shy away from a good hike, we advanced on foot ready to explore.

Up the main path, the Broadwalk had a wonderful rill (small stream) winding its way alongside us, occasionally disappearing before reappearing on the other side of the path. We thought this was a brilliant way of diverting people's attention from walking up the incline!

At the head of the path was the real crowning glory of the gardens, the Great Glasshouse. This impressive domed-structure is the largest single span glasshouse in the world, housing the Northern Hemisphere's biggest collection of Mediterranean plants. Brilliantly laid out and featuring steep-sided ravines and cliffs we wandered through the various areas, each showcasing the plant life of a different country with a Mediterranean climate.

Being tree people, it was wonderful to learn more about flowering plant species, and we were astounded to learn that despite these Mediterranean regions covering less than 2 per cent of the earth, they host more than 20 per cent of all flowering plant species!

Although fantastic to experience the more exotic species, our favourite planting appeared in the native areas, with intricate slate beds playing host to numerous endemic Welsh species. This superb planting sat beautifully within the rolling Carmarthenshire countryside.

The gardens were first created in the early 1600s

The gardens help to conserve plants, fungi and habitats

You can visit the world's largest single-span glasshouse

Halfway through our visit the heavens opened, but we'd timed it perfectly and managed to escape the rain by ducking into the butterfly house. This was perhaps the favourite part of our visit and we could have stayed there for hours. With a beautiful array of amazing moths and butterflies, the more time we spent there the more we spotted! There were species from around the tropical world, including large vibrant blue butterflies and even some with delicate see-through wings.



The walled gardens

“ There were a range of other beautifully landscaped areas to explore, but the wild flower area situated in the double walled garden was one of our favourites. With raised beds giving ideas for different ways of growing your fruit and vegetables, the whole area looked stunning in the sunshine, glinting in the light after the preceding downpour. ”



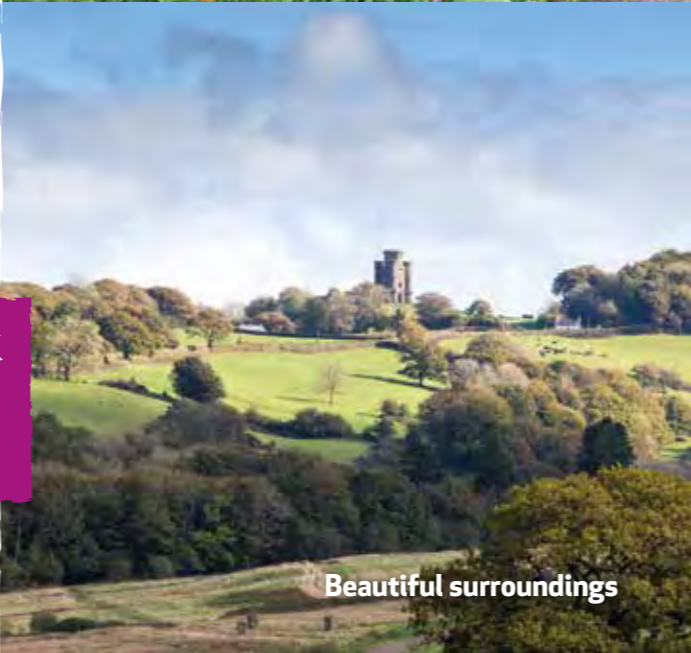
Throughout the site, signage informed us about the garden's heritage, with the original estate dating back to the 1600s where the Middleton family aptly gained their fortune trading in exotic plants. With various changes over the years, it became the National Botanic Garden of Wales in 2000, but you can still glimpse its regency past in the picturesque surrounding parkland.

There was so much more to see, but sadly we just didn't have time to do it all justice! We'll certainly be back to venture off the main paths and visit Pont Felin Gât where there's a woodland valley and waterfall, after which I'm sure we'll be back for a big slice of cake in one of the garden's cafés.

We loved our visit to the National Botanic Garden of Wales and heartily recommend that anyone with Friends' membership take advantage of free reciprocal entry. We'll definitely be back!

A wonderful gift

With eight reciprocal gardens across the UK to visit, membership makes a wonderful gift. Visit fowa.org.uk/become_a_member to find out more.



Beautiful surroundings

A collective masterpiece

Great things have been happening in the Great Oak Hall this autumn with The Gloucestershire Printmakers Cooperative's "giant print" event inspired by one of the arboretum's beautiful oaks.

Visitors were treated to free tutorials in lino-cutting and invited to contribute to the creation of a collective masterpiece. The GPC exhibition was wonderful, informative and truly celebrated Westonbirt and the magnificent trees here. It was enjoyed by many of the visitors to the arboretum over the busy autumn period.

To book a place on one of the printmakers' Saturday workshops at the arboretum in April and May 2018, contact christine@cfelce.co.uk



Would you like to showcase your art with us next year? We welcome a variety of artwork sales, so please contact greatoakhall@fowa.org.uk for information.

Westonbirt's winter world



As winter draws in around us, the trees and wildlife of the arboretum prepare for the long haul to spring. It's a lovely time to explore and there's always plenty to look out for.

In winter, the robin puffs up its plumage to insulate its body against cold winds.

Ever resourceful, the robin hunts around the ground disturbed by other animals, to find earthworms and grubs.



▲ Credit: Bev Starkings

December

As the deciduous trees shed their summer foliage, animals begin their hibernation and migrating birds head off for warmer climes. Those that are left use their knowledge of the forests to survive and thrive.

In December the beautiful silvery white hoar frost covers deciduous branches and evergreen fronds. Brightly coloured berries stand out against the rich evergreen leaves. The harder berries such as haws, hips and holly berries provide an important source of food for thrushes, blackbirds, wood pigeons, fieldfares and many others.

January



Male mistle thrushes and song thrushes can be heard singing on warm January days to attract a mate.

January is a magical time as evergreen trees and shrubs take centre stage. Look out for the long pine needles, the flat needles of firs, the scale-like leaves of cypress and cedar species and the shiny waxy leaves of many evergreen shrubs.

Keep your senses tuned for winter fragrances. Two groups of plants stand out during January, the Witch Hazels with its brightly coloured scented flowers and the Winter Box with small white flowers and a strong and distinctive fragrance. Both can be found along Main Drive and Circular Drive.

Camellias, Hazel and Persian Ironwood will begin to flower towards the end of the month.

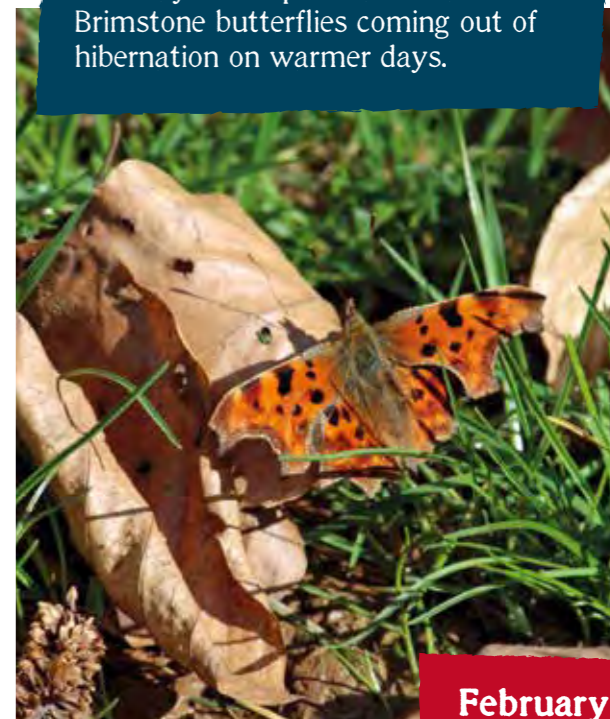
There's also a hint of romance in the air, as the great spotted and lesser spotted woodpeckers start drumming and male mistle thrushes and song thrushes sing on warm January days to attract a mate and establish territory.

In February you will find the first signs of new life unveiling. Flowers begin to appear on the trees and the woodland floor. Snowdrops are in flower, catkins appear on hazel and alder, and Dog's Mercury with its small green flowers are pushing through. Buds swell, getting ready to burst into leaf, and some animals prepare to rear their young.

From mid-February to mid-March the Cornelian Cherry displays beautiful clusters of small yellow flowers, striking against its bare branches (K20, G25). Persian Ironwood also comes into flower, with crimson stamens standing out against chocolate coloured bracts (E22, E24).

Tawny owls start to nest and may well have eggs by the end of the month. Bullfinches can be seen feeding on the new leaf buds of trees and bushes.

You may even spot Peacock and Brimstone butterflies coming out of hibernation on warmer days.



▲ Credit: Bev Starkings

February

Have you spotted any winter wildlife at Westonbirt? Share your images on Facebook or email your photos to us at magazine@fowa.org.uk

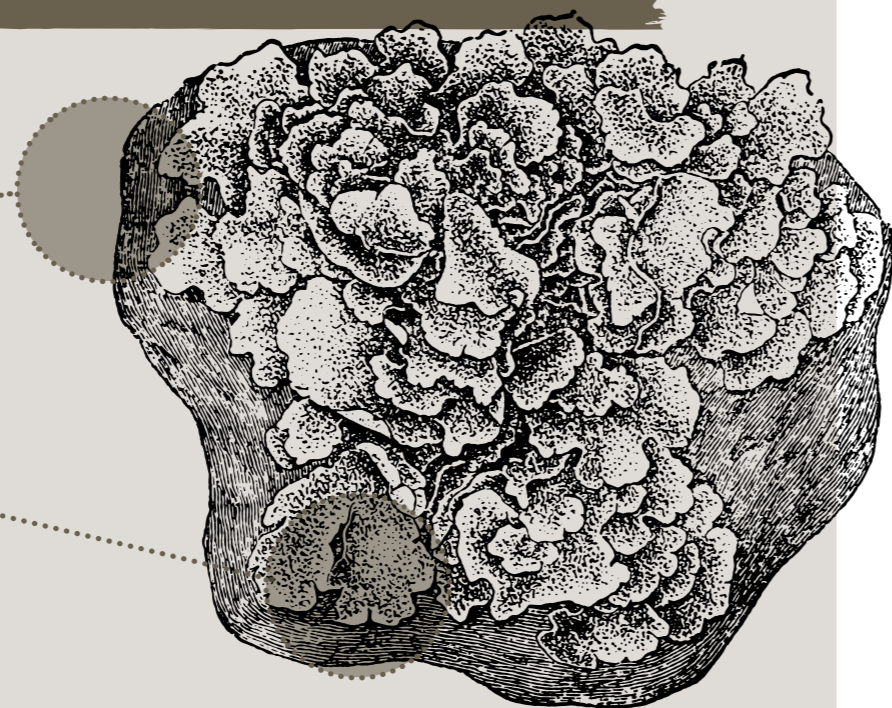


Likin' lichen

Trees provide an ideal home and vital resources for lots of wildlife. Here we take a look into the fascinating world of lichens.
 Honorary Research Fellow School of Biological Sciences University of Bristol, David Hill, tells us about these incredible fungi.

Symbiosis
Lichens are fungi. They live by being fed sugar by algae living inside their structure in a mutual relationship called symbiosis.

Global
 Lichen is found all over the world, from the Antarctic continent to the tropics, remote islands, mountains, deep forests and harsh deserts.



You may notice them as different coloured patches on the trunks, branches and twigs of the trees. Lichens are fungi. They live by being fed sugar by algae (microscopic plants) inside their structure in a mutual relationship called symbiosis. Both lichen and algae derive all their other needs from the air and rain. They do no harm to the trees. They are eaten by snails and other little beasts, providing food for larger animals and supporting the food chain. They differ from mosses by not having any little green (or brownish) leaves.

There are about **1,900 different species in Britain and Ireland** (15,000–20,000 in the world) and **almost 150 have been recorded at Westonbirt.**

They differ in colour, structure and size. Lichens grow on stones and rocks, on the ground, under water in very clean streams and rivers as well as on trees. On trees, some lichens grow away from the bark into the air (fruticose or shrubby), some creep along the surface (foliose or leafy) of the bark and some grow sealed to the bark as a crust (crustose). The shrubby lichens are commoner in the west of Britain where the air is damper.

Lichens reproduce through spores and only the fungus can do this so whenever a new patch of lichen appears, a spore must find algal cells, of the right strain, in the bark to live with. Some lichens can also reproduce by shedding minute fragments which include fungus and alga so avoiding the hazard of a chance meeting of spore and free living alga.

Lichens are very sensitive to air pollution and in the past they were absent from towns and cities due to sulphur dioxide from burning fossil fuels. Now this has been reduced but many lichens in town and country are now threatened by nitrogen pollution – ammonia from farming and nitrogen oxides from vehicles. The bright orange-yellow lichen (*Xanthoria*) likes the nitrogen and occurs abundantly on trees in towns, along roads and in farmland indicating high levels of nitrogen pollution in the air.

You may see dozens of different species on the trees at Westonbirt but relatively few *Xanthoria* because the surrounding woodland is good at mopping up the nitrogen pollution. Have a look at trees near your home and see if there is more or less *Xanthoria* there!

Lichen structures



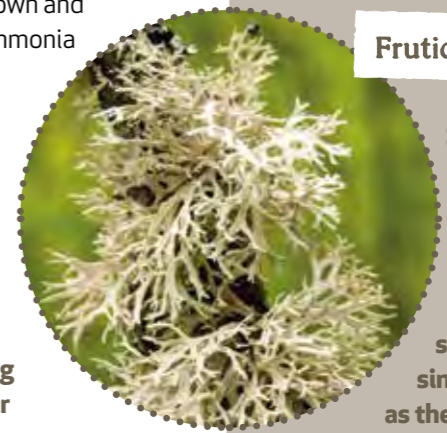
Crustose (crusty)

Flat lichens that cover substrate like a shallow crust. They cannot easily be removed without damaging the substrate or lichen. Such as the pin-head lichen, *Calicium viride*.



Foliose (leafy)

Leaf-like lichens with lobed edges and distinct upper and lower surfaces. They are attached to the substrate by the lower surface. Such as the tube lichen, *Hypogymnia physodes*.



Fruticose (shrubby)

Shrub-like or wispy lichens with rounded or flattened branches. They are attached to substrate by a single point. Such as the oakmoss lichen, *Evernia prunastri*.

Coming up

Welcome to our packed events calendar. We're excited to offer a great diversity of events across a wide range of activities and interests. For more information about individual activities please visit the web link shown.



Guided walks

Secrets of Silkwood Guided Walk

Join our knowledgeable volunteer guides, as they lead you round the Silk Wood and reveal the secrets of the ancient woodland on this two hour, dog-friendly guided walk.

Sunday 7 January, 4 February & 4 March
11am – 1pm

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AG7M

Enchanted Christmas

Discover the trees of Westonbirt Arboretum in a whole new light, on our magical illuminated Christmas trail. **Advance tickets only.**

**Friday 1 – Sunday 3 December, Thursday 7 – Sunday 10 December ,
Thursday 14 – Monday 18 December**

www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-christmas

Family events



Conifer capers

Discover the remarkable world of conifers in our arts and craft half term family event at the learning centre.

Free after admission
12 – 15 February, 11am – 3pm

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ASHDAG



**Members receive 50%
discount off adult
tickets on Fridays!**

Courses and workshops

Mindfulness photography workshops

Saturday 27 January

Half day session: 10am – 12.30pm or 1.30 – 4pm
Price: £55

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ASHDSL

Other events and activities



Firewood Sales

Winter is the perfect time for a roaring log fire, pop by Westonbirt Woodworks on Saturday mornings to pick up firewood produced as part of Westonbirt's routine tree management.

Every Saturday 9am – 12pm

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ANBDAZ



Christmas Tree Sales

Available from Westonbirt Woodworks. See website for prices.

**1 December weekends 9am – 1pm,
weekdays 10am – 2pm**

Advance notices

Volunteers' New Years meetings

**Friday 12 January 10am – 12pm,
Saturday 1 January 10am – 12pm**
in the Great Oak Hall

FOWA AGM

Saturday 12 May 10am – 12pm
Great Oak Hall

**Help spread the word about
Westonbirt Arboretum events
by sharing on social media.**

HLF Thank you Promotion Week

**To celebrate the end of the HLF funding
at Westonbirt, we will be taking part in
the HLF "Thank you Week".**

The scheme encourages recipients of HLF funding to offer something to visitors who play the National Lottery, as a way of saying thank you for their support of the lottery, and to link lottery players with the good causes supported by the lottery.

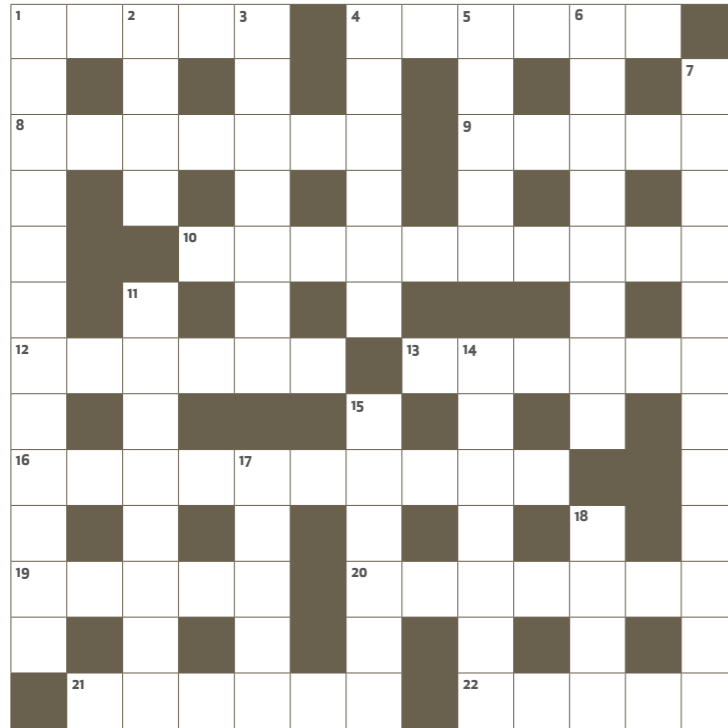
We will be offering **free entry and a free Westonbirt Guidebook** to all visitors or members who show that they have a valid National Lottery ticket or scratch-card between the 11–17 December.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Westonbirt crossword 2017

Mainly about trees, with some helpful cryptic clues!
With thanks to Roger Gorst for providing this crossword



Down

- 1** Weeping Fig, perhaps Disraeli had one? (8,4)
2 Westonbirt tree preferring low pH soil back from Morecambe. (4)
3 Stout poles used to direct trees being felled, found in Vakil Higson's Bailiwick. (7)
4 Long or short its grass, Chewing's, Sheep's or Blue. (6)
5 Californian White oak seen on return from Selborne. (5)
6 Tree may amputate limbs that are not broken. (8)
7 Evergreen shrub that makes a good display at Westonbirt in the spring. (12)
11 "of the tree of knowledge of good and, shalt not eat" Genesis 2. (4,4)

Send in your completed crossword to magazine@fowa.org.uk or post to **Crossword, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum GL8 8QS** to enter our prize draw to win a **Westonbirt 2018 Calendar and a copy of the Tree Spotters Guide.**

Across

- 1 & 4** Very darkest wooded area, perhaps light if cake. (5,6)
8 Carried by conifers but not a stitch to show for it. (7)
9 Tree abandoned in the Isle of Man. (5)
10 A nominal leader made of oak mounted on the prow. (10)
12 "but to for ten years, plant trees" Confucius? (6)
13 Acer leaves may be simple and palmately (6)
16 With leaves (as illustration) they may grow to 30 metres. (5,5)
19 Town with largest *Liriodendron* in England. That's sheer nonsense. (5)
20 Bunch grass, *Chrysopogon*, for essential oil from above Tiverton. (7)
21 *Juncaceae*, to catch a bus and hide Moses. (6)
22 Woody, could be amusing! (5)



- 14** *Rhododendron Augustinii*, a blue shrub – or sky goddess. (7)
15 Small group of trees. (6)
17 a branch for the birds or fish. (5)
18 Once a PoW camp, shape where leather on willow may be heard. (4)



Future of the Forestry Commission

On Tuesday 7 November the Government's Forestry Minister, **Therese Coffey** published a ministerial statement on the **Future of the Forestry Commission**. **Andrew Smith** tells us what this means for the Forestry Commission.

Essentially from 2019 – the centenary year of the Forestry Commission – the Forestry Commission's statutory remit will be England only. It is expected that devolution of Scottish forestry matters to Scottish Government will have completed by April 2019. The Forestry Commission will be retained in England, and will continue to manage the 250,000 hectares of English public forests for public benefit – including the supply of timber, public access and the environment. The future Forestry Commission will continue to comprise of three main elements.

The part that manages the National Arboretum at Westonbirt and other public forests will, over the next two years, develop a new identity under the name of Forestry England. This will bring the opportunity to develop a more customer-facing brand and reach new audiences. Forestry England will continue its mission to connect everyone with the nation's forests, by creating and caring for our forests for people to enjoy, wildlife to flourish and businesses to grow. It's likely that at the arboretum references to Forestry Commission will, in time, change to Forestry England.

Forest Research will maintain their cross-border remit, working in England, Wales and Scotland continuing to share information, knowledge and expertise with colleagues in all three countries. This is great news for Westonbirt as it means that we can continue our fruitful collaborations on tree health and tree science as well as pursuing partnerships with other academic institutions.

The third element, Forest Services, will continue to provide regulation, advice, support and guidance to the woodland sector in England as well as helping deliver government's ambitious targets for woodland creation.

While there will be some governance and role changes at national level, the announcement of itself does not materially change staffing or activity at Westonbirt. It helpfully draws a line under some of the uncertainty that has arisen in recent years about the future of the Forestry Commission and provides a sound basis for taking our activities forward into our second century.



The Westonbirt Wood Project

Will you help us to restore Westonbirt's wood centre?

Once a cattle shed and holding pen, Westonbirt's Wood Centre is a prominent feature within the arboretum landscape.

Having received planning permission, over the next two years we will be restoring this magnificent heritage structure to provide craft workshops, timber and handmade furniture to help support the arboretum.

Gazing out from the Treetop Walkway, the viewer will see this space transformed into a hub of activity.

The first step is to purchase a mobile sawmill for our timber. We will then be erecting two timber-framed barns – one to house the sawmill and the other for drying and storing timber. We will also restore the existing building by reinstating the stone roof.

These new facilities will be of great benefit to Westonbirt Arboretum, allowing us to mill, store and sell Westonbirt wood. The public will be able to buy unique pieces of good quality Westonbirt timber and furniture in the shop, take part in pre-booked craft workshops and learn about traditional crafts at the demonstration area.

Our wood centre completes the natural cycle of the arboretum. Our Forestry Team manages the woodlands to allow new growth to come through, cut sources of renewable timber and shape our landscape. The Westonbirt wood centre enables us to make good use of our renewable timber resources and helps to sustain the work of the arboretum.

The new centre will showcase the lifecycle of trees at Westonbirt – from tiny seed, to magnificent specimen, to bespoke craft and construction material.



The covered demo space and viewing area. This space will allow traditional craftspeople to demonstrate their skills 'in-action'.



The milling and timber storage barns. Two new structures, made from Westonbirt wood, will allow timber to be milled and stored onsite.



The craft yard. Expanded facilities will allow for our programme of traditional timber-craft workshops to be expanded and diversified.



The shop. A retail and gallery space to exhibit the pieces produced by a range of skilled craftspeople.



The workshop. Fitted out with all the essential woodcraft tools and machinery for handcrafting products.



Indoor craft area. This flexible indoor craft space can be used as a workshop or teaching area.

This whole project sets out to promote a better understanding of trees and the qualities of different types of timber in the production of products.

Please help us to make this incredible project a reality by making a donation. There is more information on our website www.fowa.org.uk/how_you_can_help/wood_project, or you can call one of our fundraising team on 0300 067 3303. THANK YOU!

Alternatively, you can cut out this slip and send it with a cheque made out to 'FOWA', to: Wood centre appeal, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8QS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Donation amount: _____

I would like the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum to treat this donation and any donations I make in the future as Gift Aid donations, until I notify otherwise. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay and difference.

giftaid it

Signed: _____ Date: _____ **Thank you for your support!**



There are lots of reasons to join the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum. Here's a quick reminder of all the benefits of being a Friend!

- Free entry 364 days a year
- Kids go free age 18 and under
- Free quarterly magazine
- Discounts with local partners
- Early bird booking and discounts for Enchanted Christmas
- Early bird booking for Forest Live concerts

Free entry for adults at reciprocal gardens:

- 1 Batsford Arboretum, Gloucestershire
- 2 Bedgebury National Pinetum, Kent
- 3 Birmingham Botanicals and Glasshouses
- 4 Yorkshire Arboretum, Castle Howard
- 5 National Botanic Gardens of Wales
- 6 Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh including Benmore, Dawyck and Logan
- 7 Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Surrey
- 8 Royal Botanic Gardens Wakehurst Place, West Sussex

Visitor views

“We visit quite often as the children love making things and finding treasure. We have even made them special bags for their collections.”
Gillian and Katya, plus three children

A great day out - lichen hunting at Westonbirt Arboretum! #lichens #lovenature @Lichen_News
Mandy Garratt @cheshlie

“We came upon Westonbirt after three weeks exploring the south west and are so glad we found it. The dogs have exhausted themselves and we have had a lovely walk. We will definitely come back and see what it is like during the other seasons.”
Susan from Cheshire, with her husband and two dogs

Forestry Commission England

100% Santa Approved trees

GET YOUR REAL Christmas tree from

Westonbirt Arboretum

Choose the perfect real Christmas tree at Westonbirt Woodworks. Open 9am - 1pm Weekends and 10am - 2pm Weekdays from 1st December.

FREE baby Christmas tree with every purchase

Find out more at forestry.gov.uk/christmas #SantaApproved

The Friends of Westonbirt team

Chief Executive Anna-Clare Temple

Business Manager Jacqueline Dalton

Business Support Lorna Butcher

Interim Finance Co-ordinator Chris Jacob

Membership Co-ordinator Bev Starkings

Membership Administrator Kelly Hough

Fundraising Officer Sarah Malina

Fundraising Assistant Gill Ball

For general enquiries:

general@fowa.org.uk 0300 067 3300

For membership enquiries:

membership@fowa.org.uk 0300 067 3300

For fundraising enquiries:

fundraising@fowa.org.uk 0300 067 3303

For Great Oak Hall enquiries:

greatoakhall@fowa.org.uk 0300 067 3301

Patrons

HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

Giles Coode-Adams OBE

Sir Henry Elwes KCVO

Robin Herbert CBE

Hon Beth Rothschild

Sir Crispin Tickell GCMG, KCVO

Trustees

Mike Mintram (Chair)

Sue Bradley-Jones (Vice Chair)

Gavin Grant

John Hammond

Margaret Headen

Mike Howarth

Malcolm Potter

Stephen Segar OBE

Andrew Smith

Karen Thornton (Vice Chair)

Beth Weston

President

Christopher Brickell CBE

Vice Presidents

Roger Busby CBE

Peregrine Pollen

Arboretum opening times

9am-5pm (last entry Dec - Feb 4pm) (March - Nov 4.30pm)
Closed Christmas day

General enquiries Monday-Friday

Tel: 0300 067 4890

westonbirt@forestry.gov.uk

Learning Centre

The Learning and Participation team offers a wide range of fun, hands-on programmes

Tel: 0300 067 4856

Mobility Scooter Reservations

Book in advance, collect from Welcome Building

Open daily 10am - 3.30pm

Tel: 0300 067 4861

Volunteering

Tel: 0300 067 4862

cheryl.pearson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Westonbirt Shop

Open every day 10am - 4pm

Tel: 01666 880 787

Restaurant and café

Open 9.30am - 4pm

(Closed Christmas and New Years day)

Café open seasonally, Tel: 01666 880064

Westonbirt, The National Arboretum, Tetbury,
Gloucestershire GL8 8QS

Probate & Inheritance Services. We can help you move forward.

Getting to grips with unfamiliar legal affairs is especially hard if you are also trying to cope with a bereavement. Our specialist team of lawyers provide straightforward, practical help and advice, tailored specifically to your circumstances.

Our Probate Consultancy Service provides guidance for the legal process of dealing with someone's Will and estate. From understanding the requirements of a Will to exploring the complexities of Inheritance and Capital Gains Tax, we will explain all of the options available and best course of action to take.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU TODAY?

If you would like to find out more about our **Probate Consultancy Service**, or to make an appointment with one of the team, please contact us on

01225 485700 hello@mowbraywoodwards.co.uk



THE LEGAL EXPERTS IN BATH

PROBATE & ESTATE
ADMINISTRATION

INHERITANCE TAX

WEALTH PROTECTION

TRUSTS

WILLS & LASTING POWER
OF ATTORNEY

INHERITANCE
DISPUTES



Westonbirt
The National
Arboretum

Advance
tickets only

HALF PRICE adult
tickets and **£2**
children's tickets for
Friends booking
Friday nights

ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS

An illuminated celebration of
Westonbirt's tree collection

FRIDAY 1 – SUNDAY 3, THURSDAY 7 – SUNDAY 10
& THURSDAY 14 – MONDAY 18 DECEMBER

Tickets & info:

forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-christmas

Box office: 03000 680 400

 Forestry Commission
England

Westonbirt, The National Arboretum is
cared for by the Forestry Commission.