

MAGAZINE OF The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum 

# Westonbirt

SPRING 2018

## The journey of a seed

**Westonbirt wakes up**

**A welcome bunch of grazers**

**Time for a Hygge in  
the trees?**

**Spring tree highlights**

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# Contents

## In this issue

Coming up 6



Time for a hygge in the trees?  
18

Spring trail map 24

Family fun 28

Unleash your inner creativitree  
31



News 32

Agenda for 32nd AGM 36

From seed to sawmill 38

Membership benefits 40

The Friends of Westonbirt team 42

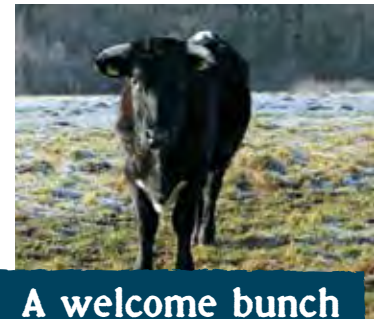
## Features



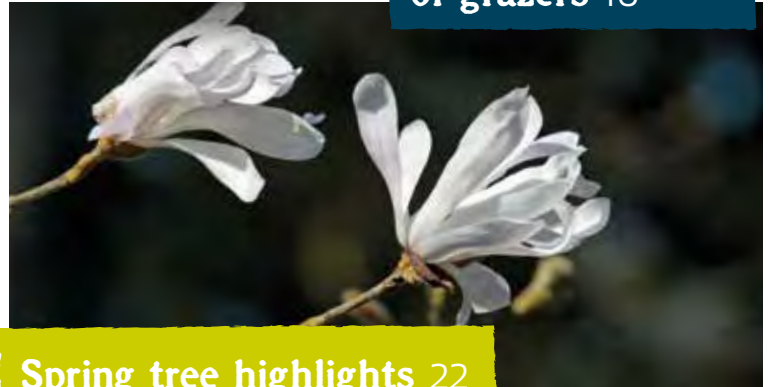
Westonbirt wakes up 10



Journey of the seed 12



A welcome bunch of grazers 16



Spring tree highlights 22

Cover image: © Jane Gifford

the friends  
of Westonbirt  
Arboretum

### Westonbirt

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should satisfy themselves  
about the authenticity of  
products advertised.



## Welcome to the first magazine of 2018!



**We have started the new year with a brand new website (some of you may already have seen it), which was launched a few weeks ago. It is well**

**worth a visit, at [fowa.org.uk](http://fowa.org.uk), as it has all the information you need about your membership, the charity's work and things that are happening at Westonbirt. We will be continuing to make improvements to the new site throughout the year to make it easier for you to manage and renew your membership.**

A big thank you to everyone who took part in our recent membership survey. We are going through all your responses and comments, and will take on board your views and suggestions, especially around how we communicate with you.

Your membership gives you year-round access to the arboretum, so let 2018 be the year you make the most of this and visit regularly. Whether it is bringing your children or grandchildren to follow the trail of the Highway Rat (based on the children's book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Sheffler), or enjoying the wellbeing benefits of a walk in the woods (see the article how to hygge a tree on p18), there's something for everyone every day.

We look forward to welcoming you at Westonbirt!

**Anna-Clare Temple**  
Chief Executive

## What can we do for a greener future?



**I don't know about you but over the last few months I've felt a pang of guilt every time I've put a fleece garment into the washing machine. Can it really be true that each wash releases hundreds of thousands of microfibres?**

**Living almost within sight of the Bristol Channel I can certainly believe that if it does they mostly end up in the ocean.**

When in January Theresa May launched the government's 25 Year Environment Plan, 'A Green Future'\* it was somewhat overshadowed by a focus on all things plastic. Many of the other commitments, such as woodland creation, a Northern Forest, more timber in construction and appointing a tree champion – to name just some tree related ones – were overlooked.

Inevitably for a government plan there was a degree of political spin and it received criticism for not being ambitious enough in terms of timescales or amount of government funding. But it's prompted a debate and hopefully some self-evaluation; it behoves us all as citizens to consider what we are prepared to do even if it means extra effort or cost.

I'm optimistic that there will be exciting technological solutions to some problems. I'm not ready to give up fleece clothing and was delighted to discover that for the short-term you can already purchase a washing bag that claims to capture most fibres. At the arboretum our single use cups are 'Vegware', but we need to do more to raise awareness of this and to make sure their compostable characteristics are utilised.

Everyone can make small changes to their daily lives to reduce their impact on the environment. What will you do?

**Andrew Smith**  
Arboretum Director

\* [www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan)



Westonbirt  
The National  
Arboretum

**FRIENDS**  
charity places  
now available



Westonbirt  
**10K**  
**Run for the trees!**

**7pm, Wednesday 23 May 2018**

Enter as a Friends charity runner and raise money for the arboretum – in return you'll receive free entry to the race, early booking and an exclusive Westonbirt 10K T-shirt!

the friends  
of Westonbirt  
Arboretum  
Registered Charity 293190

 **Forestry Commission**  
England

[forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt10k](http://forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt10k)

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

# Coming up

Welcome to our spring 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

### Wonders of Westonbirt Guided Walk

Everyday from 1 March, 11am

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVBEA5](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVBEA5)

### Secrets of Silk Wood Guided Walk

Every Saturday and Sunday from 1 March, 2pm

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ASPJSR](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ASPJSR)



▲ Credit: Paul Groom

### Wild Plant Guided Walk

Tuesday 10 April and Tuesday 1 May, 10:30am

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVAK3L](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVAK3L)

### Behind the Scenes Guided Walk

Learn how we source and care for trees from the seeds and saplings in propagation to the champions out in the arboretum, and see some of the machines and tools we use to care for this remarkable collection.



Saturday 7 April, Sunday 8 April, Saturday 5 May, Sunday 6 May, 11:30am

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVBHAJ](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVBHAJ)

## Workshops and Courses

### Advanced Photography Course

Develop your photographic skills and understanding with this one day course in the stunning setting of Westonbirt Arboretum.

Friday 20 April, 10:30am – 3:30pm

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVAENH](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVAENH)

### Beginner's Photography Course

Learn the basics of photography and how to compose stunning shots in the beautiful setting of the arboretum.

Monday 16 April, 10:30am – 3:30pm

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVAEFN](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVAEFN)

### Botanical Drawing Workshop

Create accurate studies of botanical subjects such as leaves, fruit and flowers, in line, tone and pen.

Saturday 7 April, Saturday 12 May 2018

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVADKB](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVADKB)

### Impressions of Westonbirt Photography Course

This one day workshop is designed to help you look beyond the obvious and develop your creative eye as together we find new ways of interpreting Westonbirt.

Tuesday 10 April, Wednesday 2 May, Sunday 20 May

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVAKSN](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVAKSN)

## Lino Printing Course with Beth Jenkins

Make your own original print block out of modern, easy to cut lino.

**Saturday 21 April, 10am – 4pm**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ARUEW6](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ARUEW6)

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## Mindfulness Photography Workshop

Discover a different approach to the art of photography in this half day course, held in the stunning grounds of Westonbirt Arboretum.

**Saturday 28 April, 10am – 12:30pm or 1:30pm – 4pm**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ASHDSL](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ASHDSL)

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## Rustic Chair Making Course

Join Jane Gray-Wallis for a one day course and learn to make a beautiful rustic chair.

**Friday 13 April, 10am – 6pm**

**Saturday 14 April, 10am – 6pm**

**Sunday 15 April, 10am – 6pm**

**Friday 18 May, 10am – 6pm**

**Saturday 19 May, 10am – 6pm**

**Sunday 20 May, 10am – 6pm**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVADTL](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVADTL)

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## Textural Printmaking Course with Christine Felce

Create unique colour layered prints using a variety of textural material and mark making to translate your ideas.

**Saturday 14 April, 10am – 4pm**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ARUEQ](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ARUEQ)

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## Mono printing with Christine Felce

Create painterly one off prints using mono-printing techniques, plant material and drawing to develop unique and beautiful prints, printed on a press.

**Saturday 19 May, 10am – 5pm**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ARUF5A](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ARUF5A)

## Sketching Workshop

Learn to sketch in the stunning outdoor location of Westonbirt Arboretum.

**Wednesday 23 May**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVAG7E](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVAG7E)

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## Woodblock Printing with Beth Jenkins

A great introduction to the art of woodcut printing.

**Saturday 26 May, 10am – 5pm**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ARUEZW](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ARUEZW)

## Exhibitions

### Printmaking Exhibition and live printmaking this Easter

Printmakers Christine Felce and Beth Jenkins will be showing a selection of their work and demonstrating live printmaking throughout the week with plenty of opportunities for everyone to get involved. Print your own postcard to take home, using letterpress and stamps! This activity is suitable for all ages and free of charge.

Christine and Beth are experienced and accomplished printmakers and teachers and are part of Gloucestershire Printmaking Co-op. To see more of their work, visit their websites [www.cfelce.co.uk](http://www.cfelce.co.uk) or [www.bethjenkins.co.uk](http://www.bethjenkins.co.uk)

**Friday 30 March – Friday 6 April,  
10am to 4pm (3pm final day)**

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### 'Old and new' Exhibition and sale

A collection of work by Sue Townsend over the last couple of years showing her versatility and her love of the outdoors.

**Friday 4 – Friday 11 May,  
10am to 4pm  
(3pm on final day)**



## For children and young people

### Wild Westonbirt

Aged between 14 – 18? Love the great outdoors? Join a youth club with a difference and learn a range of practical conservation, traditional bushcraft and outdoor survival skills.

**Saturday 24 March, Saturday 21 April,  
Saturday 26 May, 10am – 4pm**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AUTKW8](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AUTKW8)

### Spring Secrets: Family Event

Discover the relationship between trees and insect pollinators, make a scented craft and have a go at our Easter challenge.

**Tuesday 3 – Friday 6 April, 11am – 4pm**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVBKTD](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVBKTD)

### Marvellous Magnolias: Family Event

Come and explore the amazing early magnolias and other spring flowers. Discover their secrets and make a craft to take home.

**Tuesday 10 – Friday 13 April, 11am – 4pm**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVBL9K](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVBL9K)

### Westonbirt Wildflowers: Family Event

Discover our wildflowers and grasses – see if you can ID the different flora and fauna of Westonbirt on our ID challenge and have a go at our arts and crafts activities.

**Tuesday 29 May – Friday 1 June, 11am – 4pm**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVBLRR](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVBLRR)

### Mothering Sunday: 11 March

On Mothering Sunday bring along your Mum for free! (terms and conditions apply)

### Mothering Sunday: Family ties

Discover folklore links between trees and family, and make some spring flower crafts for someone special.

**Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 March, 11am – 3pm**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVBJLM](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVBJLM)

## Other

### Firewood Sales

Buy firewood produced as part of Westonbirt's routine tree management.

**Every Saturday at Westonbirt Woodworks, 9am – 12pm**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ANBDAZ](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-ANBDAZ)

### Hot Air Balloon Flights

Take a hot air balloon flight and soar over the tips of the treetops, placing a breath taking spectacle at your feet.

**Saturday 31 March, Sunday 22 April, Sunday 20 May**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVAGTT](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVAGTT)

### The ARB Show 2018

The ARB Show will be returning to Westonbirt this spring – meet the professionals that care for the nation's trees, take part in exciting activities and watch amazing chainsaw stunt demonstrations.

**Saturday 12 May**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVJLHA](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AVJLHA)

### Westonbirt 10K

The hugely popular Westonbirt 10K will be returning to the National Arboretum.

**Wednesday 23 May, 7pm**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-9SQEEQ](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-9SQEEQ)



▲ Credit: Colin Hawkins



# george ezra



Sunday 17 June  
Westonbirt  
Arboretum

Nr Tetbury, Glos.

**Tickets:** 03000 680400

**Buy online/info:** [forestry.gov.uk/music](https://forestry.gov.uk/music)

**Info:** [georgeezra.com](https://georgeezra.com)



Presented by the Forestry Commission by arrangement with 13 Artists

# Westonbirt

## wakes up



Bright mornings, longer days and the singing of the morning chorus are a sure sign that spring is well and truly on the way! It's nature's show-time and the arboretum is full of the colours, sounds and energy of new life.

**Spring gradually unfolds as migrating birds return to the longer days and plentiful food supplies. Snowdrops, primroses and cowslips decorate the forest floor and the bright yellow blooms of wild daffodils promise warmer days ahead.**

The boughs of trees are not yet heavy with leaves and the sun rises higher to bathe the woodland flowers, encouraging bees and butterflies to search for nectar.

The warmer days also stir many hibernating animals. Hedgehogs are on the move again and snakes, frogs, toads and lizards are all leaving their winter homes.

### March



The queen bumblebee emerges in early spring, having been fertilised at the end of the summer.

**She is the sole survivor from last year's colony. Having found a suitable nest, the queen lays her eggs on a pollen loaf, collected from early spring flowers.**

▲ Credit: Bev Starkings

**Spring begins in earnest with many tree buds turning to leaves, woodland animals foraging for food and starting families, and migrating birds adding to the morning songs.**

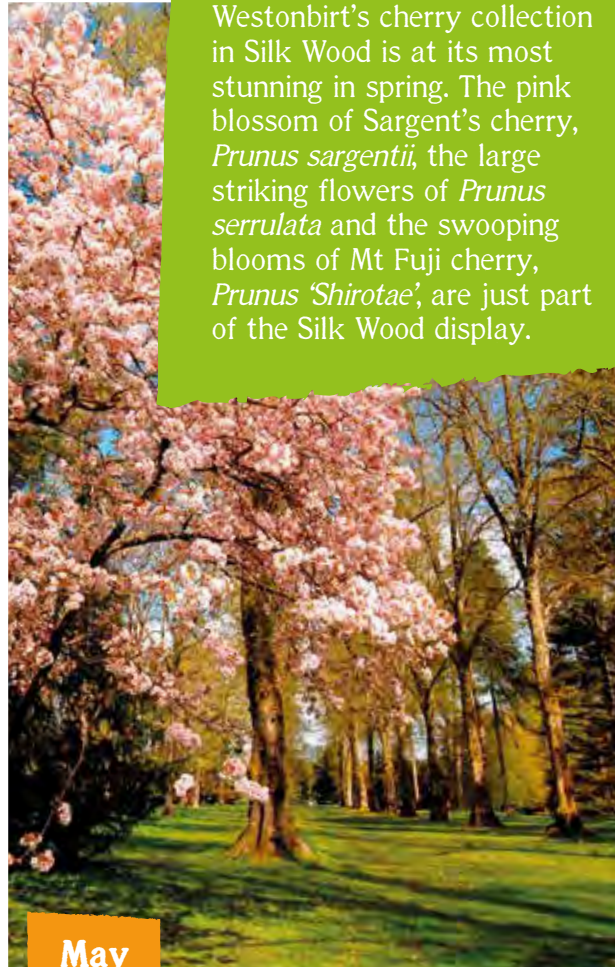
There is an explosion of colour taking place in the arboretum as our collection of trees from temperate areas across the globe, including rhododendrons from the Himalayas and magnolias from China, begin to blossom. Also, keep an eye out for the beautiful pink and white blossoms of the Crab apple, *Malus sylvestris*, known as the 'Tree of love' by ancient Celts.

Flying in from Africa in April, the Nightingale is one of the best loved arrivals. The male's beautiful song can be heard day and night as he announces his breeding territory.

**April**



**May**



Westonbirt's cherry collection in Silk Wood is at its most stunning in spring. The pink blossom of Sargent's cherry, *Prunus sargentii*, the large striking flowers of *Prunus serrulata* and the swooping blooms of Mt Fuji cherry, *Prunus 'Shirotae'*, are just part of the Silk Wood display.

▲ Credit: Jane Gifford

**May is a beautiful time to stroll through the arboretum. It's the peak of spring and the colours and sounds of nature are everywhere.**

Deep blue carpets of Bluebells flood the glades and the Japanese maples show off their spectacular array of colours. Lookout for the striking purple pink flowers of purple orchids and foxgloves. You may pick up the sweet scent of lily of the valley. In the hedges the creamy white buds of hawthorn stand out against the bright green leaves. Damselflies and dragonflies have emerged from larvae or eggs under water, and show off their colours as they put on one of nature's finest aerobatic displays.

**Have you spotted any spring wildlife at Westonbirt? Share your images on Instagram using #FriendsOfWestonbirt or email them to us at [magazine@fowa.org.uk](mailto:magazine@fowa.org.uk)**



# Journey of a seed

Penny Jones is the Propagator at Westonbirt. Her knowledge, understanding and passion for seed propagation has produced hundreds of healthy saplings, which are planted at the arboretum. In the first of two articles about propagation, Penny talks us through selection, seed collection and germination at Westonbirt.

## Why do we propagate seeds at Westonbirt?

Primarily to maintain and enhance our collection of trees as a Grade 1 listed landscape. We select the seeds to propagate from some key groups, these include; trees with heritage and historic value; those that fall within our National Collection of maple species, Japanese maple cultivars, lime species and all the hardy members of the walnut family; and species that are of interest for conservation, education and research reasons.

“ We look to maintain and enhance the tree collection so future generations can enjoy it. ”

## How do you choose which seeds to propagate?

We have an accession policy that determines the seeds we collect. Our database tells us how many of each tree species we have in the collection, when they were planted and how many are from a wild collected source. I work with our Curator, Mark Ballard, and Dendrologist, Dan Crowley, to decide which seeds are high priority. For example, we recently identified cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*) as a species we need to increase. It's a signature plant and we only have six in the collection, the last of which was planted in 1961, so it's become a priority.

## Where do you find the seeds?

I only use UK collected seeds for growing rootstocks but other plants are propagated asexually or by cuttings, grafting or layering. We also make trips abroad to collect specific seeds. We recently made a trip to Italy to pick up species and subspecies that we don't have in the maple collection. This included two important species, *Acer opalus* subsp *obtusatum*, a new introduction to the collection and *Acer lobelii*, which is rare in cultivation as all plants come from one known clone.

Forest Research Scientist, Matt Parratt, wading through a mountain stream. Seed collecting in Italy was not for the faint hearted with plenty of mountains and ravines to navigate!

## Do you just collect seeds and take them back to Westonbirt?

If only it was that simple! No, once we've identified the species we want we then obtain permits from the country of origin. The permit lists the organisations involved in the trip and those that the seed or resulting plant can be sent to.

“ As well as collecting the seeds on our field trips, we also record all the details from the seed collection such as the altitude it grows at, longitude and latitude, associated species that it grows with and any other data that adds to our knowledge of the species and helps us to choose planting sites with the right conditions. ”

▼ Credit: Dan Crowley





Seedlings propagating under Penny's watchful eye (above). Our seed collecting team in Italy (left).

▲ Credit: Matt Parratt

### So the permits only allow specific organisations to receive seeds or plants?

The permits conform to The Convention of Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol (when it's agreed). The permit prevents plants from being distributed without control. For example, a tree may be found to have a value in a new medicine. Without controls that plant could simply be propagated by a corporation rather than the country of origin being able to benefit from their own natural resources.

### How do you select the best seeds?

We do viability checks in the field. At the most basic level we check seeds for any sign of pests or disease. We'll usually cut a selection of seeds open to check for a live embryo inside and a nice white moist flesh. There's a whole range of other tests that can be undertaken depending on the situation. These include: float tests, selecting only those that sink; test sowing of a batch to ensure they germinate in adequate numbers; biochemical staining using triphenyltetrazolium chloride that shows a reddish stain on live tissue; and X-raying seeds that have been soaked in heavy metal salts and photographed.

### Is it easy getting the seeds to germinate?

For some yes. Acorns are a good example of a simple seed to germinate. Most seed is covered with a 3mm depth of Horticultural grade grit that has been washed to remove traces of lime. As a general rule, they're sown one and a half times their diameter apart and under that depth of grit. There are some seeds that don't need covering, such as rhododendron, but care needs to be taken to keep the seed moist.

Other seeds need more attention to trigger them from dormancy. There are different types of dormancy but to keep things simple let's just use physical dormancy as an example. This is when a seed remains dormant for a physical reason, the most common of which is a hard seed coat. Treatments could include: mechanical stratification, cracking, shaving or chipping the seed to improve its permeability to water and air; soaking in warm or cold water depending on the seed; and warm or moist scarification, often using peat or sand and then keeping the seeds at specific temperatures and in carefully monitored conditions that mimic their native environment.

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**Thanks Penny, we'll catch up again in the summer edition to find out about your growing techniques and learn a bit more about all the growing houses and polytunnels!**

---

# Fruit

## dispersal

Trees have developed different ways of protecting or spreading their seeds. Here are a few examples:

### Capsule

**Example:** *Hamamelis mollis* (Chinese witch hazel)

### Cone

**Example:** *Abies alba* (European silver fir), conifers generally

### Conelet

**Example:** *Alnus cordata* (Italian alder)

### Drupe

**Example:** contains a single seed and can be dry as in *Halesia carolina* (Snowdrop tree) or fleshy as in *Daphne mezereum* (Mezereon)

### Fleshy

**Example:** *Sorbus commixta* (Japanese rowan) berries/drupes/pomes

### Follicle

**Example:** *Magnolia acuminata* (cucumber tree)

### Nut

**Example:** *Castanea sativa* (sweet chestnut)

### Nutlet

**Example:** *Carpinus betulus* (hornbeam)

### Pod

**Example:** *Robinia pseudoacacia* (false acacia)

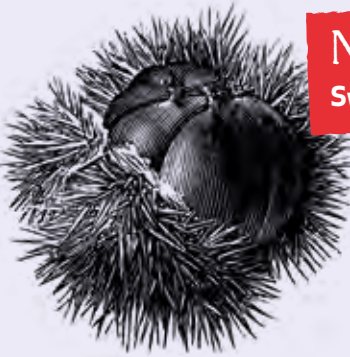
### Samara

**Example:** *Acer macrophyllum* (Oregon maple)



### Capsule

Chinese witch hazel

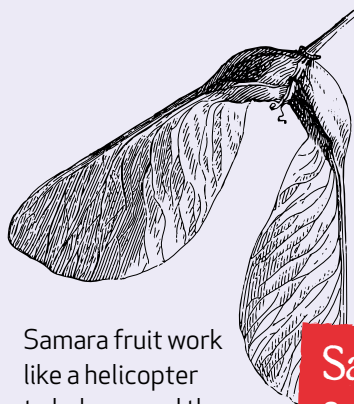


### Nut

Sweet chestnut



Seeds develop inside the prickly cases to keep them moist and protect them from hungry foraging animals.



### Samara

Oregon maple

Samara fruit work like a helicopter to help spread the seeds further from the tree.



# A very welcome bunch of grazers



You may have noticed that we have played host to a group of Gloucester cattle. They have brown-black bodies with a white stripe along their back and white tails and underbellies. These handsome beasts are playing a vital role in continuing the Downs restoration project, and helping us to create and maintain a diverse habitat for the many wildflowers, insects and other animals that make their home amongst the grasses of the Downs. Matt Parratt, Forest Research Scientist, tells us more.

▲ Credit: Bev Starkings

Surveys over recent years have shown that the Downs here at Westonbirt are home to at least 236 different plant species – around 8.1% of the UK flora! But in recent decades, this type of limestone grassland has been in rapid decline.



**In the 1930's 40% of the Cotswolds was covered in wildflower rich limestone grassland, today it is just 1.5%, a decline which is reflected across the UK.**

## **So why is this type of grassland disappearing?**

Many flora species found in the grasses are being outcompeted by more aggressive, tall rank species such as cocksfoot grass, docks and thistles. Livestock grazing reduces the dominance of these aggressive species. Through the action of their hooves, the animals open the soil to provide niches where seeds can germinate.

Not all grazers are suitable for the downland. Sheep and horses are very selective grazers, they tend to nibble rather than tear vegetation, sheep preferring flower heads and buds and horses liking the finer grass. Cattle are less fussy and pull clumps of vegetation from the ground with their tongues; this creates a more tussocky sward, creating small areas of bare soil in which seeds can germinate.

It's important to stop the grazing when the vegetation starts to flower. Then we'll get them back on the ground once most of the species have shed their seeds.

**Gloucester cattle are mostly docile, but you should not try to touch or pet them and please keep dogs under control and to heel when near them. The cattle that were with us over the winter have left us for the time being. They plan to return in late summer.**



▲ Credit: Bev Starkings



▲ Credit: Bev Starkings

# Time for a hygge in the trees?

## Mindfulness in the forest

Taking time to absorb the wonderful trees around you, feeling the wind, listening to birdsong and the forest sounds, feeling the textures of trees and plants; that's definitely hygge! The word is actually Danish and is pronounced 'hoo-ga', in English it's usually translated as 'cosiness'. But it actually means more than that; 'A deep sense of place and wellbeing; a feeling of friendship, warmth, contentment and peace with your immediate surroundings'.\*

▲ Credit: Sarah Malina

**‘How to Hygge a Tree’ is a new resource born from the work we’ve done over the last four years as part of our Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) community engagement project. It captures all the incredibly positive effects the project has had on many of the participants in terms of their wellbeing, mental health and quality of life. It looks at how the arboretum, it’s atmosphere, and the experiences of participants, creates something more than just a nice day out – it created ‘hygge’.**

**“** ‘How to Hygge a Tree’ explores concepts central to hygge, such as togetherness, creativity, nature, food and drink and fire and warmth. **”**

The resource provides a tool for heritage organisations to help them champion the importance of reaching out and really engaging with groups. It aims to inspire others to develop similar projects with community groups by sharing best practice in a down-to-earth way.

The pack explains our own experiences and learning, and provides a range of easy to replicate practical activities. We look at the importance of building relationships and shared memories, sharing responsibility and learning, providing challenges and enjoying success, creating a sense of ownership, cosiness and comfort, and keeping things simple by going back to basics.

**To find out more about community engagement at Westonbirt, or access a downloadable copy of ‘How to Hygge a Tree’, please contact Karen Price, Community Coordinator on 03000 674854 or email [karen.price@forestry.gov.uk](mailto:karen.price@forestry.gov.uk)**



## Fancy a little hygge?

**You don’t need to be part of a community group to enjoy the therapeutic benefits of Westonbirt. Meet up with friends, bring the family, and create some shared memories with a leisurely stroll through the trees. Or just enjoy simply sitting and observing the beautiful natural world around you. Whatever you do, enjoy the moment and make it hygge!**



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

\* danishweb.wordpress.com



## Immerse yourself in spring

Spring is one of the highlights of the year at Westonbirt. The explosion of new life fills the forest with incredible colours, tantalising scents and a magical background of bird songs. It's a time of year not to be missed!

▲ Credit: © Jane Gifford



# Spring

## tree highlights



▲ Credit: Bev Starkings

Today, many of the world's trees are in danger of disappearing altogether! Here at Westonbirt, we work hard to ensure that trees are protected and preserved for future generations. Our Dendrologist, Dan Crowley, is a member of the IUCN Global Tree Specialist Group and is working with colleagues at Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) to assess the world's maple (*Acer*) species for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Here Dan picks out a few of the trees from 'The little book of disappearing trees' that have been assessed as threatened.

**Of the 20,000 or so tree species that have so far been assessed for their extinction risk, almost half of these are considered to be threatened with extinction. Collections such as Westonbirt play an important role in conserving threatened tree species, providing something of a safe haven while enabling us to learn more about them. Paradoxically, many plants that are threatened in the wild are common in gardens, though a great number of them are barely or not at all represented. At a time of global change, the conservation role of botanic gardens is of ever increasing importance.**



A species notable for its spring colour is the Chinese tulip tree, *Liriodendron chinense*. Its narrow-waisted leaves unfold shades of purple having emerged from their duck bill like buds. **We have wild sourced specimens from China and Vietnam, where it flowers somewhat earlier than it does in the UK**, which tends to be in early summer.



Katsura, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, is always highlighted in autumn but it is more than worthy of a mention in spring too. Its leaves flush shades of orange and pink, before turning green, and those with a keen sense of smell can catch a whiff of the scent of burnt sugar at this time of year that it is more famous for in autumn. **Among our specimens is the UK Champion for height, though its stature pales in comparison to those in parts of its native range of China and Japan.**



Pull out map

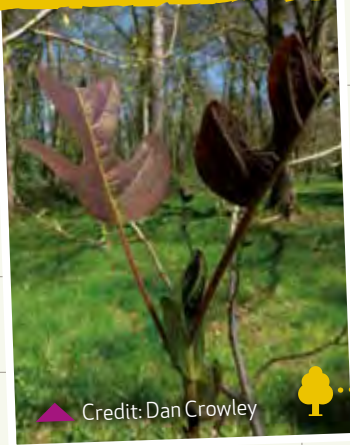
# Spring seasonal trail map

Why not use our handy pull out map for a spring visit to the arboretum. You'll find all the trees discussed in our *Spring tree highlights* article identified on the map to help you enjoy the best of spring at Westonbirt.

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



**Chinese tulip** - A member of the magnolia family, Magnoliaceae, the *Liriodendron* genus is one that is represented by living examples native to both eastern North America and east Asia; a common occurrence in the plant world.



Credit: Dan Crowley

**Katsura** - In recent years we have planted many more examples of the species, collected from the wilds of Japan. This will ensure that we continue to grow these signature plants into the future.



Credit: Charles Budd

## Tree guide



**Chinese tulip**



**Katsura**



**Foxglove trees**



**Northern Californian walnut**



**Star magnolia**



**Horse chestnut**



Each grid square is 100 metres or about two minutes walk

0 100 200 300m





**Foxglove trees – *Paulownia* species are also known as foxglove trees, due to their flowers resembling those of the herbaceous foxglove, *Digitalis purpurea*, which can also be found at Westonbirt in spring!**



Credit: Hugh Angus



**Northern Californian walnut** – Part of our Plant Heritage National Collection of the walnut family, Juglandaceae, examples of the northern Californian walnut are some of many new plantings of representatives of the family, as we continue to strengthen the collection.

▲ Credit: Jan De Langhe



**Star magnolia** – The petals and sepals of magnolia flowers are undifferentiated and are referred to as tepals.

▲ Credit: Gina Mills




**Horse chestnut** – It's always worth getting up close and personal with the flowers of the horse chestnut. The base of the petals have a yellow blotch which turns red once they have been pollinated. A handy indicator for bees and other potential pollinators, who know to avoid the red ones.




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

 Our specimens of the sapphire dragon tree, *Paulownia kawakamii*, derive from a seed collection made by colleagues at Kew from the only known wild population in Taiwan in 1992. At that time, there were believed to be less than 13 trees left in the wild. It is quite likely that these no longer exist. This single seed collection is represented by plants at a number of botanical gardens, though further genetic diversity is unfortunately not. **Like other *Paulownia* species the tree has great ornamental qualities and our older plant, growing in the Old Arboretum, flowered for the first time last year.** Needless to say we'll be keeping a close eye on it again this spring!

 Spring is certainly about scents as well as sights and it is not just flowers that smell good. The foliage of members of the walnut family, Juglandaceae, are aromatic, particularly so on their new growth. The northern Californian walnut, *Juglans californica*, is one of two generally accepted species native to California, USA and was assessed in 1998 as vulnerable. However, at the time of the assessment, the second species, Hind's Walnut, *Juglans hindsii*, was treated as part of this species. This therefore suggests that when updates are made for both species, they may be considered even more threatened. **We have plants of both species, collected in California in 2015 by Westonbirt staff and partner botanical institutes.**

 In early spring, our *Magnolia* species are some of the stars of the show with their spectacular flowers. The diminutive Star magnolia, *M. stellata*, is among the first, its white flowers standing out

on leafless branches in March. **Like many common garden plants, it is threatened in its native range, which itself is small and where habitat quality is unfortunately decreasing.**

 An even more common tree that is under threat is the so called common horse chestnut, *Aesculus hippocastanum*. **It is native to parts of the Balkans, though it has gone extinct in parts of its range.** It is unfortunately impacted in cultivation also by the presence of multiple pathogens, notably a leaf miner moth that limits its photosynthetic capacity and gives the impression of an autumn come early, when in fact parts of their leaves are being consumed. In spring, however, its abundant candle-like flowers are a real highlight, following the leaves that emerge earlier than many other large trees.

**Discover more about Westonbirt's rare trees and where you can find them with 'The little book of disappearing trees'. This pocket sized book takes you through 40 of the world's disappearing trees, the threats they face and how we can help to protect them - funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and available for free from the Welcome Building.**



# FAMILY FUN

## What's waking up in the woods?

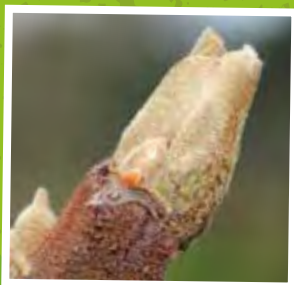
It's the end of winter and spring is here – hurray!

In winter tree roots shut down when it is colder than 5°C. Once the temperature starts to rise again in spring the roots on a deciduous tree are the first thing to become active. The roots start taking water from the ground to supply the rest of the tree. This water helps the buds to swell and burst.

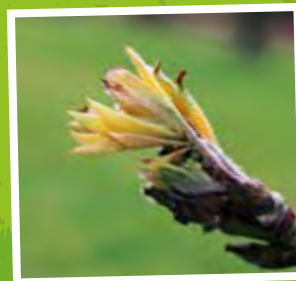
### A bit about buds



In winter the new leaves are hidden away tightly inside bud cases waiting to burst in the spring.



Lots of buds are sticky, waxy or hairy to protect the inside from cold weather and hungry insects.



In spring, when the conditions are right, the leaves fill with water and burst out of the buds.

▲ Credit: Ben Oliver





### Trees that don't lose all their leaves

**Evergreen** trees keep their tough leaves all winter as they are adapted to the conditions.

**Did you know?** Evergreens do lose their leaves and grow new ones but continuously through the year rather than just in autumn.

Look out for brighter green leaves on evergreens (like in the picture above) to see how much they've grown this spring.

### Trees that lose all their leaves

**Deciduous** trees drop their leaves in autumn and grow new ones back in spring. Can you spot any leaves on deciduous trees creeping to life?



▲ Credit: Gina Mills

## TRACKER MISSION

Can you spot any sticky, waxy or hairy new buds or young leaves?

When you get home, have a go at designing and drawing your own bud that could protect a leaf over the winter from the cold and any insects that might eat it.



### REMEMBER

Don't pick things off the trees! If something is attached, the tree still needs it.



Forestry Commission  
England

# The Highway Rat™ Activity Trail

Get an  
**activity  
pack**  
before you  
begin!

**Join in the fun**  
at Westonbirt, The  
National Arboretum  
from January 2018



Forestry Commission  
Woods & Forests

Sign up to hear more...  
[forestry.gov.uk/highwayrat](http://forestry.gov.uk/highwayrat)

# Unleash your inner Creativitree

The arboretum is a special place. A short walk amongst the wonderful trees can revitalise the soul and help spark the seed of an idea that might grow into something amazing!

**Trees have inspired generations of artists and creative visionaries. They've been the inspiration for architectural monuments, artistic masterpieces and beautiful poems. This spring, we're celebrating the creative powers of our beautiful trees with a very special project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund – and we'd love you to take part!**

Just pop into the Welcome Building to pick up one of 20 different free postcards, each with a different example of how trees have helped to inspire artists. For example, did you know that over half of the Grimm



Brother's fairy tales include trees or forests? Or that tree symbolism is used in the Lebanese flag?

The postcards have space for you to compose your own Westonbirt inspired creations! Will you write a haiku? Draw a 'designer tree'? Be inspired to create a tune? Or perhaps you'll invent a yoga position to just soak it all in?

Whatever your age or creative ability, we'd love you to share your ideas by using the postcards and attaching them to our Creativitree display! Or if you are feeling adventurous, share them with Westonbirt's online community via social media using #creativitree.

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**Help us explore the inspiration of our arboretum trees by tapping into your creativitree!**

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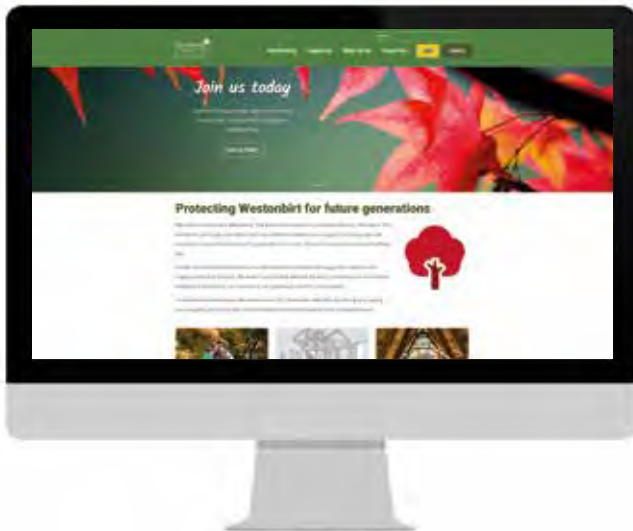
# news

## New website goes live

We're very excited to announce the launch of our new website. We hope you'll find it a useful source of information. You can find out about all the benefits your membership entitles you to over and above unlimited entry into the arboretum.

Go online to find out how your membership helps to conserve the National Arboretum, and how we are supporting the Forestry Commission with exciting fundraising projects. You can also renew your membership online or buy it as a gift for friends and family!

**Why not visit the site today and find out about all the great initiatives, events and activities going on: [www.fowa.org.uk](http://www.fowa.org.uk)**

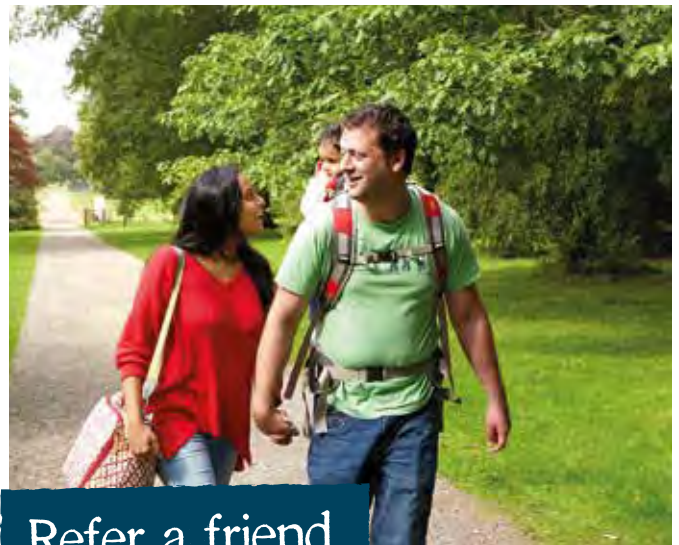


## Don't forget your card

**Please don't forget to bring your membership card when you visit the arboretum.**

Your card allows you to scan yourself in for a quick entry, and means you don't have to pay an admission fee.

If you have lost your card, please contact the membership team on **0300 067 3300** for a replacement.



## Refer a friend

If you bring a friend with you to Westonbirt, before you leave it's worth mentioning that if they sign up to become a member, pay by Direct Debit and hand in their admission tickets – we'll deduct their entrance fee!

**Simply ask for details at the Welcome Building.**



## Sir Hereward Wake Bt, MC

Some of you may have seen in the press over Christmas that Sir Hereward Wake sadly died on 11 December. Sir Hereward was a descendant of the Holford family (Sir George was his mother's uncle) and he was a lifelong friend and supporter of Westonbirt Arboretum.

It was through spending time at Westonbirt with his mother's family that his passion for trees was ignited, and he went on to plant a modest arboretum at his family home in Northamptonshire with specimens from around the world. Sir Hereward was 101 and died peacefully at home.

## Survey

In December 2017, we ran an online Membership Survey to find out how you'd prefer to hear from us.

We had an overwhelming response and would like to thank all our members who responded. We are now compiling the results which will help us formulate our 2018 communications to you.

**Three lucky members - John Phippen, Tracey Pakrooh and Hilary May - have won shopping vouchers!**

## Run for the trees



### There's still time to sign up as a fundraiser in the Westonbirt 10k!

It's your chance to run in a 10k like no other, through the arboretum's world-renowned landscape of trees. You'll receive an exclusive Westonbirt 10k t-shirt. And best of all, you'll feel amazing knowing that you're supporting a fantastic environmental cause.

**All you need to do is sign up at [fowa.org.uk/10k](http://fowa.org.uk/10k) and agree to raise a minimum of £90 for the charity. What are you waiting for?**

# Get social

## Facebook

Join 700 fellow Friends on Facebook and keep up to date with the latest news and activities at the arboretum by following @FriendsOfWestonbirt.

Not only will you find out about seasonal trails and events but we'll keep you in touch with current news such as weather impacts on opening times.

## Twitter

We've also launched a new Twitter handle so you can follow our forest tweets @WestonbirtFOWA.

It's a great way to find out the latest Friends' news and updates!

## Instagram

Share your photos with us on Instagram. If you enjoy taking pictures on your walks around the arboretum, why not share your photos with other Friends.

Simply use #FriendsOfWestonbirt and we'll share your seasonal snaps; and don't forget to follow us at @FriendsOfWestonbirt.



Wonderful snap from @rjmccannuk captioned 'Autumn Couple'. Simply beautiful. Thanks so much for sharing! #friendsofwestonbirt.



Credit: © Russell McCann ▲



Westonbirt Arboretum...  
I wish we had this in America  
I would be there every day!!!!

AC Bentley on Facebook



Jamie and Alfie  
having fun on the  
Highway Rat Trail.

Victoria Goddard  
on Facebook

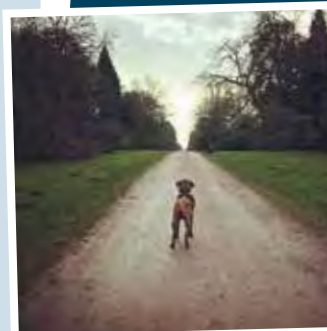


Wow! Amazed to hear there's  
a 2000 year old tree in  
#Gloucestershire @westonbirtarb

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson on Twitter



Great photo @jasperthefoxredlab  
The path seems to go on forever  
towards that moody  
morning sky. Looks  
like you're making  
the most of your  
membership for those  
#westonbirtwalkies!



# Retirement of Karen Thornton, Trustee

**On 31 December 2017, Karen Thornton retired as a Trustee of the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum. Karen joined the Board as a nominated Trustee in 2005 and a 12 year tenure followed, during which she acted as Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees, Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee and was a former Director of the charity's subsidiary company, GOH Limited.**

Throughout her tenure Karen demonstrated huge commitment, not just to the Friends, but also to the arboretum as a whole, lending her support and expertise to the Westonbirt Project Board to help bring about

the successful realisation of the vision of the Westonbirt Project.

Karen's endless drive and commitment to best practice ensured that the Friends' governance and structures developed as the charity grew, and her strategic approach ensured that the charity never lost sight of its overall goals and objectives.

Karen's integrity and support for those around her has been greatly valued by all at Westonbirt who have worked with her, and we all thank her for her tremendous contribution.

## A moooving donation



**We're extremely grateful to Sarah Baillie, who is one of our volunteers, and the University of Bristol for the £4,000 donation we received in January.**

Sarah is a researcher and teacher in the field of veterinary medicine and has developed a number of fascinating inventions. One of the simulators, the Haptic Cow, is generating income some of which has been donated to charities like us! This virtual-reality teaching simulator trains veterinary students to diagnose a cow's pregnancy. Students interact with virtual touch systems inside a fibreglass model of the rear half of a cow and view the virtual reality simulation on a screen.

**Thank you Sarah and  
The University of Bristol!**

▲ Credit: Royal Veterinary College

**If there's a story you'd like us to feature why not drop a line to our editorial team at [magazine@fowa.org.uk](mailto:magazine@fowa.org.uk)**

# Agenda for 32nd Annual General Meeting

**JOIN US Saturday 12 May 2018**  
**Great Oak Hall, Westonbirt Arboretum**  
**“Invigorating roots for tree health”**  
**Talk by Andy Bryce, Westonbirt’s Tree Team**

- 10:00am Coffee
- 10:30am AGM starts
- 11:30am (approximately) Talk starts

## **1 Apologies**

**2 Minutes** of 31st Annual General Meeting to be received and adopted

**3 Matters Arising** from the above Minutes

## **4 2017 Review of the Charity**

**5 2017 Report and Accounts**  
Receive Report and Accounts

## **6 Election to the Board**

Christine Burt – seeking election  
Martyn Smith (Finance Trustee) – seeking election  
Gavin Grant – seeking re-election  
Mike Mintram (Chair) – seeking re-election

### **Invite Continuation in Office**

President – Christopher Brickell CBE  
Vice Presidents – Roger Busby CBE and Peregrine Pollen

## **7 Special Resolution**

Resolve that the Articles of Association of the Company are altered in accordance with the document produced to the meeting (draft on website from April 2018, hard copies available by telephoning 0300 067 3300)

## **8 2017 Review of the Arboretum**

## **9 AOB**

## **Parking**

Please park in the main car park and enter the arboretum at the Welcome Building using your membership card.

## **Entry to the AGM**

Members will be required to show a valid membership card on entry to the Great Oak Hall.

Any non-member representative attending the AGM to submit a proxy vote will require identification.

## **Proxy voting**

Any member who is unable to attend the AGM in person and wishes to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on their behalf should contact the Business Manager to obtain a form, please email [charity@fowa.org.uk](mailto:charity@fowa.org.uk)

## **Minutes and Accounts**

Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting are available at [fowa.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/how-we-are-run](http://fowa.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/how-we-are-run) or by telephoning 0300 067 3300 or at the AGM. 2017 draft Accounts will be available at the AGM.

**Issued by the Trustees of Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum – January 2018**



## Election to the board

**We are pleased to advise that Gavin Grant and Mike Mintram are standing for re-election this year. The charity continues to move through a period of change, particularly with new Trustees joining the Board, and the continuity of knowledge and experience offered by Gavin and Mike is invaluable.**

In addition to their knowledge of the arboretum and understanding of the charity's governance processes, Gavin and Mike bring strong business skills and expert knowledge in the fields of marketing, communications and public relations. In addition, following an open recruitment and formal interview process, we are delighted to recommend Christine Burt and Martyn Smith as new trustees to join our Board. Martyn brings a wealth of finance knowledge and experience and Christine provides some much-needed expertise in project management and IT.



**Christine Burt**

I started my career in Plant Sciences at Kings College, London, followed by plant tissue culture research at the Unilever Oil Palm unit then

three years research at Imperial College, London into plant pathogens. Subsequently I moved into IT and project management initially at BP and Shell before the Financial Sector where I worked for the last 25 years. I was previously on the Board of the Association for Project Management; a membership and qualification charity for the promotion of project management.

I plan to use my professional IT and project management skills to support the charity's objectives and success. I am passionate about the importance of trees and in particular, the significant tree collection at Westonbirt for promoting general health and wellbeing for future generations.



**Mike Mintram**

I have really enjoyed serving as a FOWA Trustee and I wish to continue to do so. My background is in general management, marketing and

membership organisations. I hope that my professional skills and experience has supported the charity, the FOWA team and the development of Westonbirt. I also have a particular interest in helping Westonbirt develop a joint vision and plan with FOWA, to ensure we retain and enhance this incredible tree collection, develop our scientific facilities and deliver a world class educational and learning experience. I have served as Chairman of FOWA and as a member of several committees.



**Martyn Smith**

I have been visiting Westonbirt for more than 35 years, so was delighted to be given the opportunity to apply to become a Trustee of the

charity. Following a degree in Natural Sciences, I then worked principally in finance throughout my career. I am a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and the Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT). I have worked in a wide range of companies, private and public, and now run my own consultancy business.

I have experience of governance in the charitable sector. I was on the board of a locally based housing association for ten years, three as Chair, and am still on the board of one of its subsidiaries. I was on the Council of the ACT for six years, including a year in each of the four officer roles. I am a co-opted board member of a local charitable care home group.



**Gavin Grant**

It has been a pleasure to serve as a FOWA Trustee and I wish to continue to do so. My background is in public relations and communications. I hope

this has been helpful in supporting our increasingly professional staff team including in the development of our magazine and website.

I have served on FOWA's Charity Development Committee. I have also had the privilege of representing FOWA on the National Arboreta Advisory Committee.



## Completing the cycle of life at Westonbirt

**There are some absolutely magnificent specimens here at Westonbirt Arboretum and we want to ensure that every incredible tree is made the most of.**

Sometimes our trees come down due to harsh weather conditions or when they naturally come to the end of their life. What a waste it is to see some of these unique and historic specimens turned into wood chip!

We're hoping this will soon change. Having received planning permission to develop Westonbirt Arboretum's Wood Centre, we have big plans to ensure the most is made of our trees, even at the end of their life.

The purchase of a sawmill will allow timber to be milled at the arboretum for the first time.

The construction of two new barns will act as somewhere to house the sawmill and the milled timber, ready for use when construction materials are needed for new structures or fencing.

The restoration of the roof on the historic cow shed will allow the buildings to be converted into a shop, demonstration area and improved workshop space. This will allow visitors to the arboretum to view and purchase hand-crafted wooden items as well as bespoke Westonbirt timber for use in their own projects.

We just love the idea of continuing to celebrate trees through their wood. From structures, to chairs, and even musical instruments, majestic Westonbirt Arboretum trees can continue to live on through beautiful, handcrafted pieces.

Target: £140k

**Having achieved over £22,000 in donations so far, we're well on the way to purchasing a sawmill. There's still a way to go though and we're looking to raise £140,000 to see all of our plans realised.** We'd really appreciate your help and hope that you'll consider making a donation, big or small, to support this work. We can't wait to see this area transformed into a vibrant and busy hub.

**Please donate and find out more at [fowa.org.uk/support-us/appeals/wood-project](http://fowa.org.uk/support-us/appeals/wood-project)**

Raised so far: £22k

**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 any difference.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Thank you for your support!**



# 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 on the edge 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**

## Membership benefits

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

the friends  
of Westonbirt  
Arboretum

- Free entry 364 days a year
- Kids go free (age 18 and under)
- Regular Friends' eNews
- Free quarterly magazine
- Discounts with partners
- Earlybird booking notification for Forest Live concerts
- Earlybird discounts for Enchanted Christmas
- Free entry for adults at reciprocal gardens\*

\* Don't forget – it's always a good idea to give other gardens a ring before you visit. Occasionally they hold special events and may have restrictions on reciprocal visits during peak times.



### Free entry for adults at reciprocal gardens:

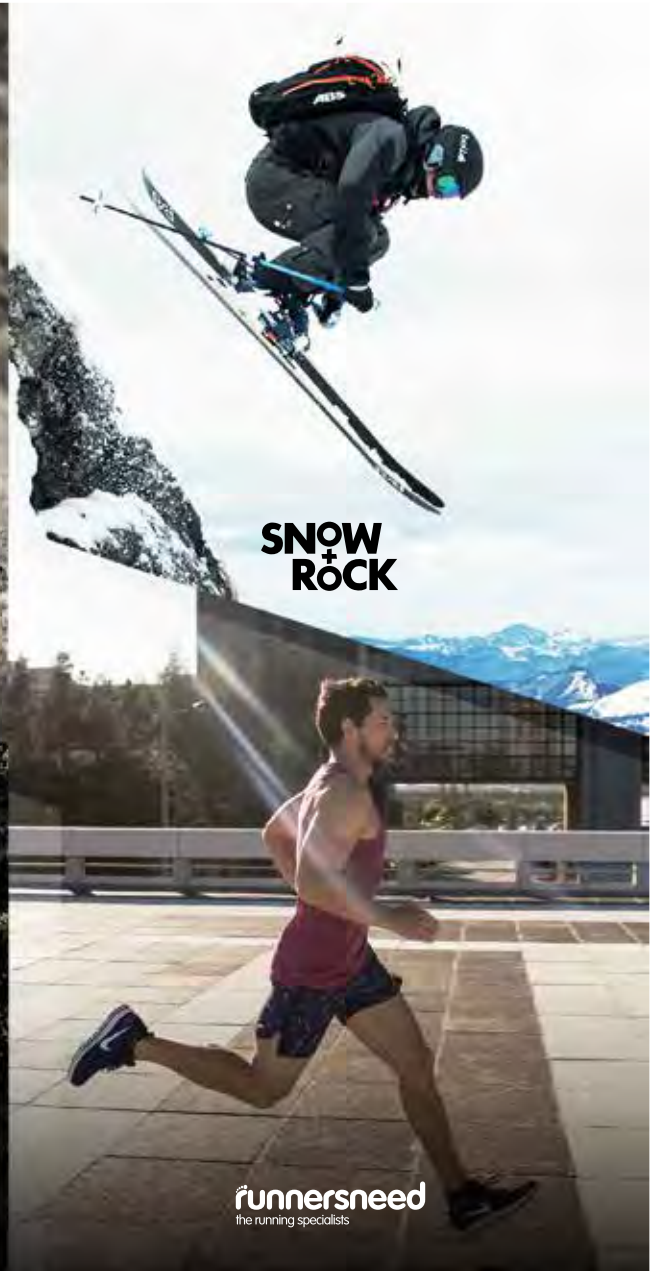
- 1 Batsford Arboretum, Gloucestershire
- 2 Bedgebury National Pinetum, Kent
- 3 Birmingham Botanicals and Glasshouses
- 4 Yorkshire Arboretum, Castle Howard
- 5 National Botanic Gardens of Wales
- 6 Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh including Benmore, Dawyck and Logan
- 7 Royal Botanic Gardens Kew,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





**COTSWOLD**  
outdoor

 **CycleSurgery**



**SNOW  
+  
ROCK**

**runnersneed**  
the running specialists

# 15% DISCOUNT FOR FRIENDS OF WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM MEMBERS

## IN-STORE AND ONLINE

To claim your discount online quote code: AF-FOWA-22.  
To claim in-store present your membership ID at the checkout.

[COTSWOLDOUTDOOR.COM](http://COTSWOLDOUTDOOR.COM) | [SNOWANDROCK.COM](http://SNOWANDROCK.COM) | [CYCLESURGERY.COM](http://CYCLESURGERY.COM) | [RUNNERSNEED.COM](http://RUNNERSNEED.COM)

Full T&Cs apply. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Selected lines are exempt. 10% discount only on bikes.  
Only valid upon production of your membership identification in-store or use of valid discount code online. Offer expires 31.12.18.

# The Friends of Westonbirt team

**Chief Executive** Anna-Clare Temple

**Business Manager** Jacqueline Dalton

**Business Support** Lorna Butcher

**Interim Finance Coordinator** Chris Jacob

**Membership Manager** Jane Shute

**Membership Coordinator** 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

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▲ Credit: Bev Starkings

## Arboretum opening times

**9am–5pm** (last paid 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

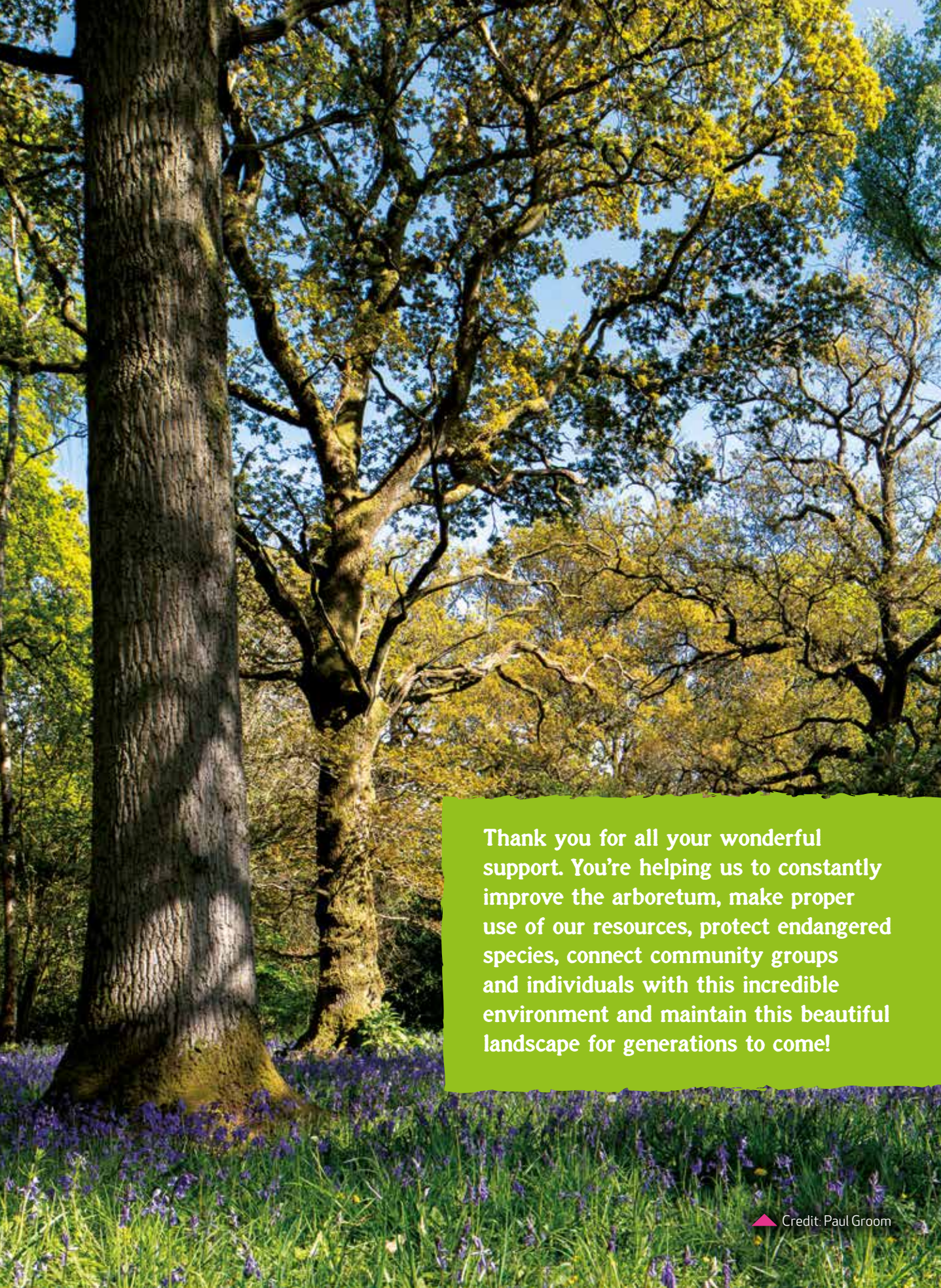
## Restaurant and café

Open 9:30am – 4pm

(Closed Christmas and New Years day)

Café open seasonally, Tel: 01666 880064

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

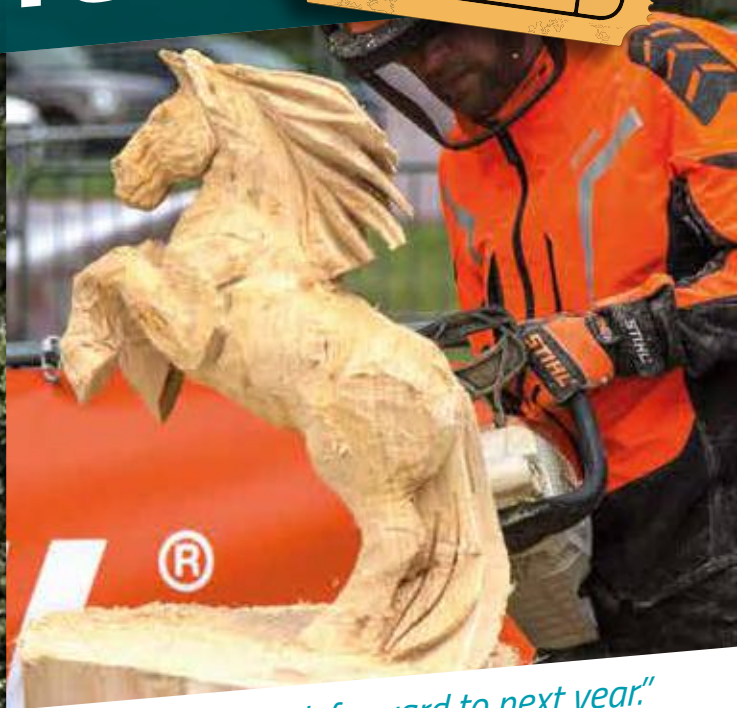


**Thank you for all your wonderful support. You're helping us to constantly improve the arboretum, make proper use of our resources, protect endangered species, connect community groups and individuals with this incredible environment and maintain this beautiful landscape for generations to come!**



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