

MAGAZINE OF The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum



Westonbirt

AUTUMN 2018

Out of the trunks of trees

From seed to sideboard

**A record breaking result
for the Westonbirt 10k**

Farewell to Dan Crowley

Annual Review 2017



Reach great heights with corporate support

It's a wonderful way to demonstrate your commitment to the environment, promote your business and enjoy some excellent benefits.

We are looking for businesses both large and small, to become valuable sponsors for the arboretum. It's a chance to help support an outstanding environmental organisation and the work we do with so many community groups and organisations.

Whatever the size of your organisation, we can find a package that works for you. Receive great benefits and promote your brand as a supporter of the arboretum.



- **Benefits for your staff, including complimentary entry to the arboretum.**
- **Your branding on our website and in key communications.**
- **Local and national PR and advertising opportunities.**
- **Naming opportunities for vehicles and buildings.**

To find out more please contact the team on 0300 067 3300 or visit fowa.org.uk/corporate-sponsorship



Contents

In this issue

News	5
Autumn life in the arboretum	10
Becoming a guide was a real eye opener!	12
Membership benefits	14
Events	20



Autumn
tree highlights
24

Autumn seasonal trail map	26
AGM Update. New Trustees	38
Annual Review 2017	39
Family fun	44
Volunteer at the National Arboretum	46

Features



Out of the
trunks of trees 34



Farewell to
Dan Crowley 13



A record breaking
result for the
Westonbirt 10k 36



From seed to sideboard; our saw mill arrives 16

the friends
of Westonbirt
Arboretum



Westonbirt

Issue 113, Autumn 2018:
September, October, November
© Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum.
Reg. Company 4965522
Reg. Charity No. 293190

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

Tel. 0300 067 3300

Design:

Oyster Marketing and Design
www.oysterdesign.co.uk

Print:

Stephens & George
stephensandgeorge.co.uk

Printed on Woodforce, sourced
from responsibly managed
forests. **Mailed in recyclable
polywrap. ISO14001.**

Editorial team:

Anna-Clare Temple
Sarah Malina
Jane Shute
Rebecca Hare

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.

Autumn changes



Welcome to your autumn issue of the Westonbirt Magazine.

Following the charity's AGM in May, we are pleased to share with you our Annual Review on page 39.

Using feedback from the most recent members'

survey we also have news of developments of how we stay in touch with you, including the Westonbirt Magazine (page 6), which will now come to you twice a year as a larger magazine, with more of the features you told us you enjoy. This follows the launch of our new website, the forthcoming new website for the Forestry Commission and the charity's monthly eNews. Information about the latest news and events at the arboretum will be provided each month in the eNews – so make sure we have your email address so you can keep informed about all things Westonbirt!

Autumn brings with it a change of season – and also some staff changes. You will see on page 13 that we are sadly saying goodbye to Dan Crowley, who has contributed so much in his role as Dendrologist. We are also saying farewell to Sarah Malina, FOWA's Fundraising Officer, who has worked hard to develop new revenue income streams for the charity over the past two years. We wish both Dan and Sarah good luck in their future endeavours.

Lastly, the time has also come for me to say goodbye, as I prepare to move on from FOWA in September. It has been such a privilege to work alongside both the charity's and the Forestry Commission's dedicated staff and volunteers, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of the Westonbirt story and contribute to the arboretum's sustainable future. Thank you to you, the charity's members, whose loyal support ensures that Westonbirt can hold a special place in the hearts of so many people – mine included.

Anna-Clare

Anna-Clare Temple
Chief Executive

Action Oak



Oak trees are part of Britain's cultural and natural heritage. From Henry VIII's ships, to the carved timbers in the Houses of Parliament, to furniture in our homes, over the centuries oak trees have been part of our lives.

Oak trees enhance landscapes; support wildlife; provide playgrounds for children; and offer shade and relaxation for city dwellers and workers. England has more ancient oak trees than the rest of Europe put together. Oak trees support 284 species of insect and 324 species of lichen as well as providing food for birds and mammals.

Environmental pressures, such as climate change, pollution and drought, can make our oak trees more vulnerable to pests and diseases. These include oak processionary moth, acute oak decline and potentially xylella.

At the Chelsea Flower Show in May a new initiative, Action Oak, was launched. The aim is to unite the efforts of owners and managers of oak trees with researchers and the wider public. What is different here is a commitment to taking a whole tree approach and considering cumulative threats and solutions, previously efforts have focussed on threats from single causes.

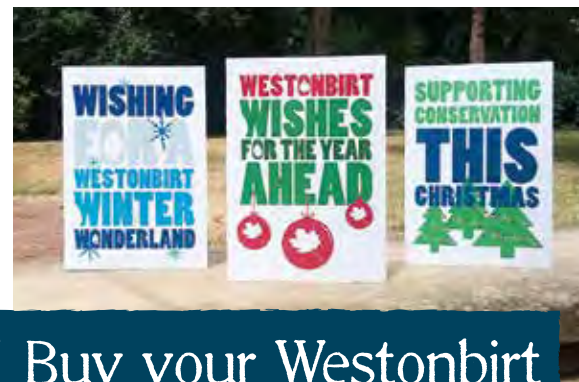
At Westonbirt we've recently taken our own action by placing estate fencing around several groups of trees on the Cricket Pitch and the grassed parking area on the right of the entrance. This will ensure those vulnerable trees are protected from compaction and allow us to leave more of the deadwood which is vital for insects.

Find out more at www.actionoak.org

Andrew

Andrew Smith
Arboretum Director

news



Buy your Westonbirt Christmas cards now

Too early to start thinking about Christmas? Never!

This time of year should be about giving, so please help support the arboretum that you love by ordering some Friends of Westonbirt Christmas cards. There are three designs to choose from, and the money you spend helps support Westonbirt today and for generations to come.

To purchase head to fowa.org.uk/gift-a-card

The buzz on bees

You may have noticed a couple of beehives have popped up in the arboretum this summer.

Bees are very much at home amongst the trees, so it's been wonderful to host these superstar pollinators, whilst bee keeping courses were run over the summer.

Some of the team went out and learnt from our expert resident bee keeper. Check out fowa.org.uk/blog to find out some of the fascinating bee facts we discovered.

Reducing our magazine's carbon footprint

Our environmental principles are at the heart of everything we do, and as the digital era presents the fantastic opportunity to increase our engagement with you in a more carbon neutral approach using channels such as the Friends' eNews, our website fowa.org.uk, online blogs and social media channels, we are taking steps to further reduce our carbon footprint.

Following considerable feedback from our members, we have decided to reduce our printed magazine to two editions per year – spring/summer and autumn/winter. As winter is a quieter period in the arboretum, the next edition of the Friend's magazine will be published early spring 2019.

We are all responsible for our impacts on the environment so in addition, if you would like to reduce your carbon footprint further, we invite you to opt out of receiving the printed magazine and switch completely to our monthly eNews with a link to a digital version of the current Friends' magazine. If you would like to opt-out of receiving a printed version of the magazine, please let us know by contacting membership@fowa.org.uk and we will ensure your communication profile is updated.



Stay in touch with eNews

As part of your membership, we send out monthly Friends' eNews updating you on the latest events, activities and projects here at Westonbirt Arboretum.

If you don't receive this email and would like to, please let us know by emailing fowaapps@fowa.org.uk



#Westonbirtwalkies

Share your Westonbirt experiences with us on Instagram with #westonbirtwalkies

Check out our other social media channels

 **Online** fowa.org.uk

 **Facebook** /FriendsOfWestonbirt

 **Instagram** @FriendsOfWestonbirt

 **Twitter** @WestonbirtFOWA

Members' comments and feedback

“ On a recent walk around Silk Wood, Westonbirt with my young girls, my attention was drawn by the name labels attached to each tree. Given the prominence of public concern about the use of plastics at the moment I was somewhat saddened to see that they were all attached to the trees using plastic screws.

I appreciate that metal screws cannot be used and that these are not exactly 'single use' plastics as they are not regularly replaced. However I did wonder, could these labels not be attached using wooden pegs – would this not be more in keeping with the natural environment of the beloved woodlands at Westonbirt? **”**

Chris Priddy, Friend

Our response: The issue of how to label trees is one we keep under constant review as there is no perfect method. We are very conscious of the environmental impact of plastics and would certainly consider other options if we felt they could do the job. We use plastic screws in preference to metal, mostly as we believe they are kinder to the tree but also because if a tree has to come down the plastic screws could not damage a chainsaw and by extension the chainsaw operator. Some of our trees have very hard dense wood, others are very soft. A wooden peg would need some form of thread to keep it in place in the tree and a head to secure the label, in other words it would need to be of quite intricate design. It would also need to be strong, long lasting, weather/animal proof, and readily available. We think therefore that wood is probably not a viable alternative at this time, however we will certainly keep an open mind on this if alternatives to plastic become available.

“ I just read the 'May email' you sent out today. With regard to usage of the membership card – could you settle an argument between colleagues, that one cannot use the membership card in your partner's name in his absence, to take in your own children over 18, even if you accompany them with your own membership card?

I say no – the colleagues beg to differ! **”**

Mrs Williams, Friend

Our response: Please note that as membership is non-transferable, you are not permitted to use another person's membership card in their absence, even if they are family.

To help you settle the argument, simply show them the text written on the front of the card 'this card is non-transferable'.

Therefore you are correct!



Our shuttle options for less mobile visitors

Our new volunteer run shuttle is now up and running and we've some exciting new developments this autumn to encourage visitors who may need a little extra help getting around to use the shuttle.

Firstly, we've updated the shuttle route so it runs around the edge of the Old Arboretum, giving users easy access to some of the most beautiful areas of Westonbirt. The shuttle service will run until Sunday 4 November, when the trial period will end. The shuttle will then take a break over the winter period, but will return in spring next year.

Card policy

Over the last few months we've been reminding our members to bring a valid membership card when visiting Westonbirt Arboretum. By doing this, you help us to protect the scheme's great value and assist with an improved visitor experience for all.

We'd like to thank all of you who consistently bring your cards every time you visit. This saves on significant administration costs for our small charity. The savings we make go towards the invaluable conservation work conducted by the Forestry Commission at Westonbirt Arboretum.

Just a friendly reminder that if you are unable to show a valid card when visiting the arboretum and still wish to enter, you will be required to pay a non-refundable admission fee. Please note that if you have lost your card or require a replacement card at any stage, you can contact the Membership Team between Monday to Friday for a free replacement on **0300 067 3300** or by emailing membership@fowa.org.uk. An optional donation of £3 to cover the cost of replacing your card would be gratefully received. Please ensure you give us a minimum of 24 hours' notice ahead of visiting to make these arrangements. Thank you for your support!

We've also introduced some short walking routes from the shuttle stops, so less mobile visitors can hop off the shuttle, enjoy a short stroll in the arboretum before jumping back on the shuttle and heading for the restaurant or exit. Ask a shuttle driver for your free 'short walks' map! The shuttle runs on Tuesdays, Thursdays and weekends. Please note that the pilot scheme for the shuttle will end on the 4 November. The current shuttle service will be taking a break over the winter whilst we evaluate how we can use it to best help our visitors, but it will return in spring 2019.

Let us know what you think of the shuttle by filling in a comments card at the Welcome Building!

▲ Credit: @ian4029, @baileythejrt13



Get active in the arboretum

Those of you who have visited recently may have spotted a new addition to the arboretum near the restaurant – our ping pong table! Head up to the restaurant, challenge your friends and family and get active in the arboretum.

You can also now pick up a sports bag, filled with your favourite outdoor games. Get the whole family involved in a game of rounders, cricket or boules on the Downs. Sports bags are available for hire from the Welcome Building for a small fee of £3 for half a day.

Community Access Scheme

Here at Westonbirt, we are committed to connecting people with trees.

Over the past four years, our Community team has worked tirelessly to bring 5,508 participants, 591 groups and 151 organisations to connect with nature through a diverse programme of onsite and outreach activities. But there is still more to do!

We are proud to announce the launch of our new Community Access Scheme, which will offer discounted rates for community groups and organisations within 15 miles of Westonbirt Arboretum.



If you are a part of an organisation or group that supports:

- people with learning or physical disabilities
- people experiencing mental health issues
- people living with dementia, or
- organisations supporting excluded, vulnerable or isolated members of society.

Then you could be eligible for the scheme.

Contact karen.price@forestryengland.uk to find out more.

Hello to some new members of the team!

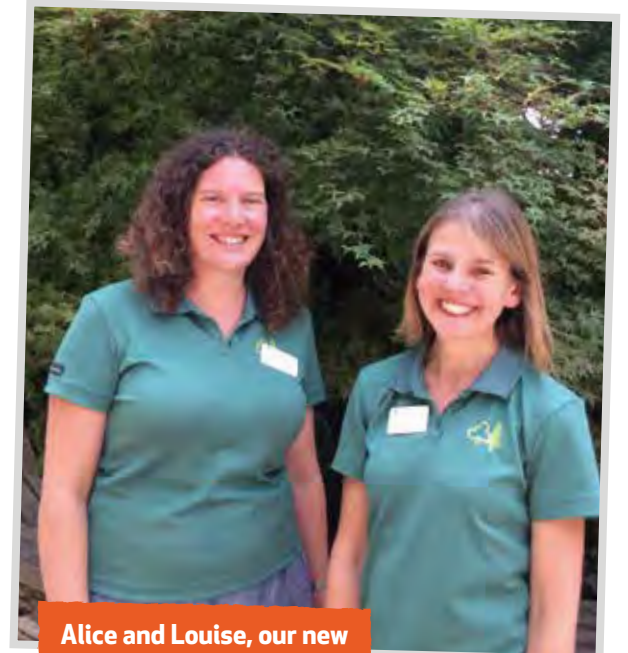
A huge welcome to Chloe Gilbert, our new Project Officer.

Chloe has joined the Project Team, and will be helping us to improve the visitor experience at the arboretum. Her first big project will be working on the construction of the new Westonbirt Woodworks, giving visitors the opportunity to see traditional woodcraft skills in action, and discover what happens to our trees when they have reached the end of their lives.

Her favourite place in the arboretum is Palmer Ride in Silk Wood. She's been really excited to learn more about the amazing trees we care for.

Our new Volunteer team

Louise Amato and Alice Chedwick. These guys look after our team of 260 volunteers, without whom we would not be able to do so many fantastic activities here at the arboretum. Louise and Alice do everything from recruiting new volunteers to buying the biscuits for the volunteer common room!



Alice and Louise, our new Volunteer team members.

If you are interested in joining our amazing team of volunteers, or would just like to find out a bit more about what our volunteers get up to please email louise.amato@forestryengland.uk

Early closure notification during Enchanted Christmas

Please note...

...our Enchanted Christmas event will take place at Westonbirt Arboretum on 1, 2, 7–9, 14–17 and 21–23 December. On these dates, last entry for members and general admission will be at 2pm and the site will close at 3pm in preparation for our Enchanted Christmas event.

Don't miss our Christmas wonderland. See page 32 for details of the Enchanted Christmas event!



Autumn life in the arboretum

As the days begin to draw in and the mornings cast a chill in the air, you can sense the change of season. It's a time of transition at the arboretum. Many trees are in glorious autumn colour, animals are busy preparing winter stores, whilst others get ready for long months of hibernation or flights abroad.

Whilst many birds prepare for the long flight to warmer climates, others arrive to spend winter here. About half the UK's bird species migrate. Some are famous for the flamboyance of their travel, such as swallows on route to their African winter or the flocks of geese and swans arriving in formation over our coasts. But for some, such as the common blackbird arriving from winter in Eastern Europe, and many of our birds of prey that leave to find more favourable hunting grounds abroad, their migration is a singular affair.



September

The Redwing, flies around 500 miles across the North Sea to winter in the UK. In the face of strong winds and stormy weather, not every bird will make it; a form of natural selection that means only the fittest survive.

October



Hedgehogs eat as much as they can in autumn to build up their reserves for hibernation. Incredibly, their heart rate drops from their usual 190 beats per minute to just 20 during hibernation.

A plentiful time of year

Autumn provides a bounty of food for our wildlife. There are blackberries in the hedgerows, crab apples, hazelnuts and seeds are plentiful, and berries weigh down the branches of trees. It's a busy time for animals to feast and horde as they prepare for hibernation or stock up for the long winter ahead.

Time to horde

We are all familiar with the squirrel's habit of storing food for winter but they are certainly not alone. Moles store earthworms, biting off their heads to keep them alive but immobilised. Those that aren't eaten will grow a new head segment in time to escape in spring.

A weasel's life expectancy in the wild is just two to three years. They must be robust hunters in winter when food is scarce but it's a dangerous world for weasels too, with owls, foxes and cats among their many foes. Weasels produce one or two litters of between four to six kittens each year.



November

We love seeing what you've discovered on your adventures when visiting the arboretum so please share your wildlife sightings with us on Instagram using [#FriendsOfWestonbirt](#) or emailing us at magazine@fowa.org.uk



Becoming a guide was
a real eye opener!

Malcolm Potter, Guide and Trustee

Just three years ago I was encouraged to train as a Westonbirt guide.

I was a reluctant starter with a lifelong inability to remember facts and a singular lack of tree knowledge – despite having been a FOWA Trustee for seven years. Well, I consoled myself, at least I might learn something about the collection and its history.

Guide training should come with a clear health warning – it is seriously addictive. I won't elaborate here but suffice to say the course is brilliant, fascinating – and fun. I was hooked!

More importantly, it was a complete eye-opener.

In the past I'd enjoyed many walks among Westonbirt's trees but, on reflection, had never properly seen, understood or appreciated what I was looking at. It is not surprising that, like (the old) me, many of our regular visitors respond to an invitation to join a walk with a polite: "No thank you, I have been coming here for years."

The most rewarding moment for any guide is when, at the end of an enjoyable walk, someone says: "Thank you so much for persuading me to come today – I've really enjoyed it, learned so much and now want to find out more."

So, if you are a 'regular' and have never been on one of our walks – just give it a go. It's not all obscure botanical detail – you will see things you hadn't noticed before, hear stories about the early plant hunters and

discover other amazing tree-facts and legends. You will also learn how this world-class arboretum came into existence and is managed today both as a place of recreation and as a major scientific resource.

Even better, try several walks – like our guides, every walk is different!

Free walks with a guide Exploring seasonal highlights and other fascinating features.

Every day, 11:00am: The Old Arboretum (1.5 hrs) – often away from the paths.

Sat, Sun & Bank Hols, 2:00pm: The Silk Wood (1.5 hrs) – well behaved dogs welcome too.

First Sat & Sun of month, 11:30am: Behind the Scenes (1.5 hrs) – a tour of the Tree Team facilities.

With a guided walk every day, make the most of your visit this autumn.

Farewell to Dan Crowley



It is with great sadness and pride that we have to announce that after nine years at Westonbirt our Dendrologist, Dan Crowley, will be leaving us in September for a new and exciting opportunity, to study for a Master's Degree in Plant Diversity at the University of Reading.

Dan joined the Westonbirt Tree Team in 2009, initially as an Arborist, before taking up the newly created role of Dendrologist in 2013.

We created the role as a development opportunity, to allow the successful candidate to develop their botanical skills by closely studying the special plants in our living collection. Dan always had a passion for woody plants and a tremendous appreciation of the Westonbirt heritage – he grasped the opportunity with both hands! Over the last five years he has become a widely recognised tree expert and plantsman in his own right, and has worked tirelessly to improve the verification and identification of our plants.

Our curator, Mark Ballard, said:

“To his great credit, Dan has helped us raise the standard of curation at Westonbirt in many ways, and in a relatively short time. It has been a pleasure working with Dan and he will be sorely missed by everyone connected to the arboretum.”

We asked Dan to share some of his memories and highlights of his time here at Westonbirt...

"I am immensely proud to have worked at Westonbirt and privileged to have represented the arboretum both nationally and internationally. I am of course hugely grateful for the opportunities I have had.

My first visit to Westonbirt, as a paying customer in late autumn 2006, left a lasting impression on me and I was particularly taken by the big trees along Specimen Avenue. I recalled that first visit with great satisfaction as I planted a young *Taiwania cryptomerioides* in this part of the Old Arboretum a few years later.

Indeed, planting has been one of my favourite tasks here as it afforded me the opportunity to learn so much. I was able to build up knowledge of soil and site conditions across the arboretum, which has contributed to my knowledge of trees and their growing preferences.

Among the many highlights have also been the seed collecting expeditions I have been fortunate to go on. These have been great learning opportunities and truly thrilling experiences too. Now I am excited to see plants collected on these expeditions growing well in the arboretum.

Almost as much as the trees, I value the relationships that I have formed with the people of Westonbirt. Fellow staff, volunteers and visitors have become friends and I'm hugely grateful for the support that I have been shown during my time here; I shall miss you all. However, I'm not intending to become a stranger to the arboretum so I hope to see you all again in the not too distant future."

Good luck Dan, thanks for all your great work and do keep in touch.

Membership benefits

For the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum:

- Entry into Westonbirt Arboretum 364 days of the year
- Bring up to four of your own children or grandchildren free of charge (age 18 and under)
- Receive the regular eNews and magazine
- Half price Fridays for Enchanted Christmas
- Forest Live Earlybird booking notifications

Membership benefits with our partners:

- 10% discount off Forest Holidays with discount code FOWA18
- 15% discount off selected lines with Cotswold Outdoor, Runners Need, Snow + Rock with code AF-FOWA-22
- 10% discount off Cycle Surgery with discount code AF-FOWA-22

NEW Membership benefits:

10% discount off Go Ape

Until 31 December 2018 with discount code GAARB
see fowa.org.uk/membership-discounts for T&Cs

Member Tuesdays

Bring a friend for free to Westonbirt Arboretum on Tuesdays between 13 November 2018 and 26 March 2019. Members must present a valid membership card to Visitor Services at the Welcome Building to obtain a free ticket for their accompanying friend. Valid for one friend per member only, excludes New Year's Day.

^Changes to Bedgebury Pinetum reciprocal arrangement

Please note that from 1 June 2019, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum members will be able to bring a car and everyone in it to Bedgebury for 50% off the normal admission price. Please see bedgeburypinetum.org.uk for current admission costs.

*Changes to Royal Botanical Gardens Kew and Wakehurst reciprocal arrangement

Please note that from 1 June 2019, free entry into Royal Botanical Gardens Kew & Wakehurst will be replaced with a two-for-one discount. Therefore, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum members (named adult cardholders) will be able to gain free entry into Kew and Wakehurst Gardens when paying for an accompanying full priced adult ticket only, regardless of whether the accompanying visitor is a student, child or concession. Members must present their membership card to claim their two-for-one discount. Joint members who each hold a membership card are both entitled to bring in a second person on the two-for-one discount, with two paying adults. Single Westonbirt Arboretum members visiting Kew or Wakehurst gardens alone will be required to pay the adult entry fee. All additional children four years of age pay full child's price at Kew Gardens (currently £5). At Wakehurst children under the age of 16 can enter for free. This offer is only available at the gates, therefore no pre-booking online.

Reciprocal Garden arrangements:

Free entry for Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum named card holders (adults only) into reciprocal gardens listed below. From 1 June 2019, reciprocal arrangements at Bedgebury Pinetum, Royal Botanical Gardens Kew & Wakehurst will change (see below).

Please always call the reciprocal garden ahead of visiting to check your membership card is valid for your chosen date of visitation.

Batsford Arboretum

Gloucestershire batsarb.co.uk

Bedgebury National Pinetum*

Kent bedgeburypinetum.org.uk

Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses

Birmingham birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk

The Yorkshire Arboretum

York yorkshirearboretum.org.uk

National Botanic Gardens of Wales

Carmarthenshire gardenofwales.org.uk

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (including Dawyck, Benmore and Logan)

Edinburgh rbge.org.uk

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew*

Surrey kew.org

Royal Botanic Gardens Wakehurst Place*

West Sussex kew.org

ESCAPE TO A LUXURY CABIN



Escape to luxury self-catering woodland cabins; choose from ten idyllic UK locations set exclusively on Forestry Commission land, many with private hot tubs.

Forest Holidays are perfect getaways for families, couples, groups of friends and even your dogs in our specific pet friendly cabins!

Call 03330 110495 or visit www.forestholidays.co.uk and enter code FOWA18 for 10% off the cost of your cabin

This code entitles the user to 10% off the cost of your cabin at any of the ten Forest Holidays locations. The code must be applied at the time of booking and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Holidays must be booked by 31st December 2018 and taken by 31st December 2019.



15% Discount For Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum Members

In-store and online using code:
AF-FOWA-22

You can also use your discount with:

**SNOW
ROCK**

runnersneed
the running specialists

CycleSurgery

Full T&Cs apply. 10% only on bikes. Offer expires 31.12.18.



A sawmill like this one will soon arrive at Westonbirt, thanks to your support.

From seed to sideboard

▲ Credit: Mark Ballard

Our new saw mill has finally arrived in the UK after making its long journey from Poland and will be in situ at Westonbirt very soon! Chosen by Paul Hayden and our Tree Team, the band-saw TTS-1200/60 will have pride of place at the very heart of timber production here at the arboretum.

As we move into the autumn, the construction work will step up a gear as we start to build the saw mill shelter and drying store.

Made from our own oak, the timber frames and cladding form a key part of our story as we follow the journey of the tree from nurtured seed to a beautifully milled piece of timber which can be used to create any number of structures and objects.

Both buildings will be constructed on site with the best view of the build from the STIHL Treetop Walkway. Here you will be able to watch the structures as they are assembled and raised. It will be a real spectacle.

It's going to be a busy few months and over that time, the yard at Westonbirt Woodworks will change considerably. If you get a chance, do take a look as the transformation gets underway.

We're extremely grateful to have recently received a grant of £10,000 from the Summerfield Charitable Trust in support of the Westonbirt Wood Project. Along with donations from generous individual supporters, over £38,000 has been raised towards these exciting developments.

The making of a Windsor chair

Arboretum Director Andrew Smith tells us about his week on a bus-man's holiday down at Westonbirt Woodworks, learning to craft a chair from scratch using traditional techniques.

My working life has involved trees and engaging people with them, so it was great to spend six days doing something that combined both! A 50th birthday present was the perfect opportunity.

I've made things from wood before but largely using MDF. So it was a delight to use timber in its raw form, starting with round sections of tree trunk. An unexpected pleasure of working without power tools was that it was peaceful and dust free with no need to wear ear-muffs or a mask and goggles. Apart from the seat, all the ash was grown at Westonbirt Arboretum, giving a unique opportunity to make a piece of furniture of authentic provenance.

Over 15 years Paul Hayden has fine-tuned his course so it runs with a friendly efficiency. Experienced tutors assist in all aspects. The seven attendees were from a range of backgrounds, including a Westonbirt volunteer and retired miner, and one from as far afield as Newcastle. There is a logical progression of making and turning the pieces below the seat: stretchers followed by legs, then spindles for the seat back, carving the seat, bending the bow back, drilling holes at the correct angles and finally assembly.

I was aiming for contemporary simplicity, the finished product is Ercol inspired, the spindles with allium like bulges adding a feature interest. A few hours of sanding and a coat of clear oil gave a fantastic end result.

Find out more about our plans to expand the range of courses on offer and support our transformation of Westonbirt Woodworks at www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt





THE ORIGINAL EXTREME SPORT

THE STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® SERIES

At STIHL we are proud to supply Westonbirt's Tree Team with the tools to help them look after their magnificent tree collection. But as well as their more conventional use some of our equipment is also used as part of an exciting extreme sport involving axes and chainsaws!

Our STIHL MS 661 C-M forestry chainsaw is used in one of the disciplines in the STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® Series. If you haven't heard of TIMBERSPORTS®, you don't know what you're missing! It is the major league of lumberjack sports, but it started from humble beginnings in 19th century Australia, where foresters would compete against each other outside work, testing their technique and speed of felling and cutting up trees.

These informal competitions expanded and evolved – in 1985, the official STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® Series was launched, comprising six events or disciplines, three with an axe and three with a saw. These disciplines simulate the practice of felling or managing felled trees, in the same way that the Tree Team at Westonbirt manage the arboretum's trees, although TIMBERSPORTS® athletes are against the clock – the fastest competitor wins! Each discipline tests their strength, endurance and technical ability.

Athletes from over 20 countries now take part in national and international competitions. Here in Great Britain, the National Championship takes place in August, with the winner of the competition qualifying to represent Britain in the annual World Championship.

In 2018, the World Championship will be held on home soil for the first time – you can catch the world's best athletes in action at the Echo Arena Liverpool on 19 and 20 October.

Don't miss this thrilling spectacle!

www.stihl.co.uk

STIHL®

Create your own

**GARDEN
MAGIC**



Grass trimmer FSA 56



Hedge trimmer HSA 56



Leaf blower BGA 56

Award winning garden tools from STIHL.

Work your magic on the garden with a little help from the STIHL COMPACT Cordless Power System. Lightweight, quiet and powerful, there's a quality tool for every domestic gardening task from trimming hedges to sawing wood,

from clearing leaves to cutting lawns. And the long lasting battery system can be swapped effortlessly across the entire STIHL COMPACT range. One system, seven tools, it's the simple way to get great gardening results.

Visit stihl-magic.co.uk or pop into your local dealer for a demonstration of our award winning products.

*The STIHL COMPACT Cordless tools shown above start from £199 including battery and charger.

**The STIHL COMPACT
cordless garden
range from**

£199*

Coming up

Welcome to our autumn events calendar. We're delighted to bring you some exciting events across a wide range of activities and interests.

Guided Walks and Tours



Behind the Scenes Tours

Discover what goes on behind the scenes of Westonbirt Arboretum on a guided tour of the propagation and tree management centres.

Saturday 1 September and Sunday 2 September
Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 October, 11:30am
Free after admission
Meet at Great Oak Hall

Find out more

Visit our website www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt or call our team on 0300 067 4890 to find out more information about any of our events.



Secrets of Silkwood Guided Walk

Our volunteers will guide you round the ancient woodland, and reveal some of the hidden gems of the arboretum. Learn about the history and management of the breathtaking landscape as you explore the woodland, and ask questions of our experienced and knowledgeable guides.

Every Saturday and Sunday until 4 November, 2pm
Free after admission
Meet at Welcome Building

Wonders of Westonbirt Guided Walk

Explore the seasonal highlights of Westonbirt's Old Arboretum on a guided walk.

Every day until Saturday 3 November, 11am
Free after admission
Meet at Welcome Building

For children and families

Autumn's Bounty: Family Event

Come and discover the bounty of seeds and fungi in our woods at this time before creating your own art.

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 September, 11am – 4pm
Silk Wood Barn
Free after admission

Fabulous Fungi: Discovery Session

Join our discovery team at Silk Wood Barn to find out more about the groups of fungi at Westonbirt. Look closely with hand lenses and identify a few species using spore prints.

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 September, 1pm – 4pm
Silk Wood Barn
Free after admission

Autumn Kaleidoscope: Discovery Session

Explore the amazing colours of autumn leaves and seeds. Add your own natural colour treasure to our display, and find out about hidden colours through leaf chromatography.

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 October, 1pm – 4pm
Silk Wood Barn
Free after admission

Nature's Fireworks: Family Event

Join us to discover why our trees change colour and create some autumn inspired art to take home.

Crafts:

Every day Leaf crowns	Wed Leaf confetti collages
Mon Leaf hammering	Thurs Nature printing
Tues Leaf bookmarks	Fri Leaf bunting

Monday 22 – Friday 26 October and (Silk Wood Barn),
Monday 29 – Friday 2 November (Learning Centre),
11am – 4pm
Free after admission



Workshops and Courses

Windsor Chair Making Course

Create your very own Windsor chair on this six day course.

You'll learn to select timber, to cleave it from the log, to shape it with side axes and with draw knives on a shaving horse and to turn it on a pole lathe.

Monday 3 September – Saturday 8 September,
Monday 10 September – Saturday 15 September,
Monday 1 October – Saturday 6 October,
Monday 8 October – Saturday 13 October,
9am – 5pm

Paul Hayden, email: paultfhayden@aol.com
Call: 01373 836051

Sketching

Wednesday 3 October

Email: maxhaleart@gmail.com

Fungi Forays

Saturday 6 October, morning and afternoon

www.cotswoldfungusgroup.com/events

Beginners Photography Course

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

This one day workshop will develop your skills both in camera technique and your understanding of digital technology.

Friday 5 October, Monday 8 October,
10:30am – 3:30pm
Price: £65

Call: 01793 752671 or
email: consult@abbey-studios.co.uk

Mindfulness Photography Workshop

Discover a mindful approach to the art of photography in this one day course, held in the stunning grounds of Westonbirt Arboretum. Use a camera or mobile phone. Learn to look and really see!

Saturday 13 October, 10:30am – 4pm

Price: £85

Call: 07789 958895 or email: ruth@look-again.org

To book: www.look-again.org/photography-workshops-nature/

Autumn Colours Photography Course

Be inspired to take your photography to the next level. This one day workshop is designed to guide you through the many considerations of composition, as well as exposure techniques and use of filters where necessary.



Tuesday 23 October, Thursday 25 October

Price: £120 with £60 deposit

Call: 07760 498 112 or email: info@imageseen.co.uk

Advanced Photography Course

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

Friday 26 October, 10:30am – 3:30pm

Price: £120

Call: 01793 752671 or

email: consult@abbey-studios.co.uk

Other

Firewood Sales

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

**Every Saturday (depending on availability),
9am – 12pm**

Car boot: £15

Estate with seats down/small trailer: £30

Van/large trailer: £60

**For advance sales or reservations call
Paul Hayden: 07793 823093**



Hot Air Balloon Flights

Soar over the treetops on a hot air balloon flight from Westonbirt Arboretum.

Saturday 22 September, Saturday 13 October

Call: 0117 947 1050

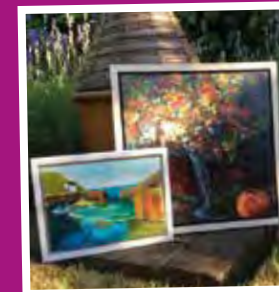
Coming up in the Great Oak Hall...

Exhibitions

**10am to 4pm daily (3pm on the final day)
Artists donate 30% of sales to the
Friends' Charity**

Eeles, Ashley and Riley "Pots and Paintings 2018"

The Eeles family return with pots that are individually decorated with wonderful slips, glazes and colours. The pots are fired to create these well sought-after pieces. Local artists Gill Ashley and Jenny Riley offer a wide-ranging variety of paintings.



29 September – 7 October

www.eelespottery.co.uk

www.artistsandillustrators.co.uk/gillashley



Foursight "Picturing Nature"

Four local artists working in different media have got together again this year to present an exciting exhibition depicting the beauty of the natural world. The inspiring environment of Westonbirt is reflected in their work.

10 – 14 October

www.drawingonreality.co.uk



Crawford Family "A Box of Delights"

Helen, Gil, Sean and Becky Crawford return with an exciting collection of new work, including inspiring textile and mixed media landscapes, stunning photography, joyful intricate wirework and beautiful furniture.

17 – 22 October

Cotswold Craftsmen "Catching the Fall"

A beautiful array of unique, high-quality, handmade arts and crafts by talented local artists living and working in the Cotswolds.



24 October – 4 November

www.cotswoldcraftsmengallery.co.uk

Events

Songways Singing Workshop

We are pleased to have Jane Harris back for another popular singing day – no experience necessary, just a desire to sing! Members can enjoy a discounted rate of £20.

Saturday 22 September

**For more information and to book, visit
www.songways.co.uk/product/singing-day-great-oak-hall-westonbirt-arboretum**

Find out more

Visit our website www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt or call our team on 0300 067 4890 to find out more information about any of our events.

Autumn tree highlights

Along with the maples, there are a wealth of other plants that hold their own at the autumn colour party here at Westonbirt. Among them are a number of members of the witch hazel family, the Hamamelidaceae. Whilst some are most renowned for their ornamental qualities at other times of the year, others come to the fore about now.



Article by
Westonbirt's Dendrologist
Dan Crowley



One of the best is Persian ironwood, *Parrotia persica*. It is one of our Signature Species: trees that have come to perform a particular role in the collection. **Encountered throughout the arboretum, Persian ironwood forms part of the theme of 'connection', one of the three principles of the 'picturesque' style in which Westonbirt is planted.** In autumn, the leaves of the Persian ironwood turn shades of purple, red and yellow. Our examples of the species are virtually all multi-stemmed and form what can be described as large shrubs, although of considerable dimensions.



Staying with shrubs, albeit far more diminutive, are our examples of *Disanthus cercidifolius*. **Its leaves showing strong tones of pink and purple stand out**, while its interesting, nut-like fruit may also be found on closer inspection. A Japanese native, it tends to colour a little earlier in the season, often from late September onwards, which is indeed the case with a number of plants from that part of the temperate world.

Autumn seasonal trail map

You can use this pull-out map to identify where each of the trees discussed in Dan's autumn tree highlights article can be found in the arboretum.

Each tree has a coloured tree icon next to it. You will find the same coloured symbol placed on the map to show its location. You may wish to take the full article on your next visit.

The map is a simplified version of our main map. We've done this to make identification easier. If you would like a copy of the full map, simply pop into the Welcome Building on your next visit.

Pull out map

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



Recently, a new species of *Disanthus* has been described from North Vietnam, though some regard it as belonging to its own genus, having previously gone under the name of *Ucodendron whartonii*.



0 100 200 300m



The common name of Persian ironwood is apt as the species is renowned for its solid wood.

Credit: Gina Mills

Rabbits are evidently keen on sweet gums. Our original tree, which was only young, was ring-barked in 2011. Swift to react, Penny Jones (Propagator) saved the day and took cuttings, from which our current trees grow.



The tree grows wild in swampy areas in the United States, alongside other autumn favourites including swamp cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and some of the hickories (*Carya* spp.).

Credit: High Angus



With maple (*Acer*) like leaves, sweet gums can be confused with the members of this genus but the arrangement of their foliage easily distinguishes them. In maples, leaves are arranged oppositely whereas in sweet gums, they are arranged alternately.



Sweet gums often begin to turn in August. Some trees are noted for their 'traffic light-like coloration', as it develops from the top down.

Switching themes just slightly, we have the sweet gums, belonging to the genus *Liquidambar*. Formerly part of the Hamamelidaceae, *Liquidambar* is now included in the Altingiaceae. The family was once considered to comprise three genera, *Altingia*, *Liquidambar* and *Semiliquidambar*, though recently all of these have been included within *Liquidambar*. **This has increased the number of species within the genus by more than three times, from four to 15!**



Three species are represented at Westonbirt, the most common being the North American sweet gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*. Native to vast swathes of the eastern forests in the United States, it extends as far south as Honduras and El Salvador in Central America.



As well as older plants dotted around the collection, we have recent plantings from seed collections made in West Virginia in 2006 and Georgia 2014, the latter from a tree of considerable stature, with a diameter of well over a metre! **An example of the cultivar 'Worplesdon' is growing well in the Old Arboretum**, notable for its predominantly strong autumn coloration. It also sets fruit, which is not so common for the species in this country, though our tree isn't quite old enough yet!



Less lobed (and less common) is *Liquidambar acalycina*. This Chinese native was introduced to cultivation in 1980, from seed collected from the 'Metasequoia region' of Hubei, known for its fantastic plant diversity. **Our plants are all young, but establishing very well.** Though more known for the flush of their foliage in spring, they are still worthy at this time of year!



The third of the three sweet gums here is the Oriental sweet gum, *Liquidambar orientalis*. Native to southwest Turkey and the Greek Island of Rhodes, it has recently been assessed for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Endangered. **Our plants were collected wild in Turkey, where threats include increased land clearance for agriculture.** A less vigorous grower than either of the other two here, its smaller, five lobed leaves are tinted red in autumn.

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



Autumn's kaleidoscope of colours

Autumn is such a special time of year. You can feel the transition from summer. The wonderfully rich colours of the trees, still mornings, migrating birds, new arrivals and busy woodland animals preparing for the winter ahead. It's a wonderful time to visit the arboretum, to marvel at the colours and absorb the incredible sense of change all around you.

Enchanted Christmas

See the trees of Westonbirt in a whole new light this Christmas

This December, as night falls the arboretum will be transformed into an enchanted Christmas wonderland...

Set out on the illuminated trail and discover a magical world of breath-taking illuminated spectacles, interactive light displays and beloved Christmas characters scattered amongst the trees.

Head to our new Christmas village, and soak up the seasonal cheer by listening to Christmas choirs, getting the whole family involved in arts and crafts, having a go on our traditional Christmas fairground rides, and warming up with a cup of mulled wine or hot chocolate.

Advanced booking essential

Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum are able to take advantage of half price adult tickets and £2 child tickets for Friday bookings. The Earlybird Enchanted Christmas email will be sent to all primary members who currently receive the eNews on Monday 17 September with an exclusive booking link. If you currently don't receive the eNews and would like to, please contact us at fowaapps@fowa.org.uk

Dates

Please note this event is by advance ticket only.

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 December

Friday 7, Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 December

Friday 14, Saturday 15, Sunday 16 and Monday 17 December

Friday 21, Saturday 22, and Sunday 23 December

Booking

Earlybird booking, exclusively for Friends, opens on Monday 17 September.

General admission booking opens on Monday 24 September.

Adult: £14

Child: £7 (5–18 years old, under 5s go free)

Concession: £12 (student and job seekers)



Westonbirt
The National
Arboretum

ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS

Explore the illuminated Christmas trail

Sat 1 & Sun 2, Fri 7 - Sun 9,
Fri 14 - Mon 17, Fri 21 - Sun 23 Dec



Tickets & info: forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-christmas

Box office: 03000 680 400

Friends receive
priority tickets
children's
tickets or ride
on in s

Forestry Commission
England

Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum*

Out of the trunks of trees

Roger Gorst, a long-standing friend of Westonbirt Arboretum, has kindly sent us this fascinating insight into the many uses of products extracted from trees.

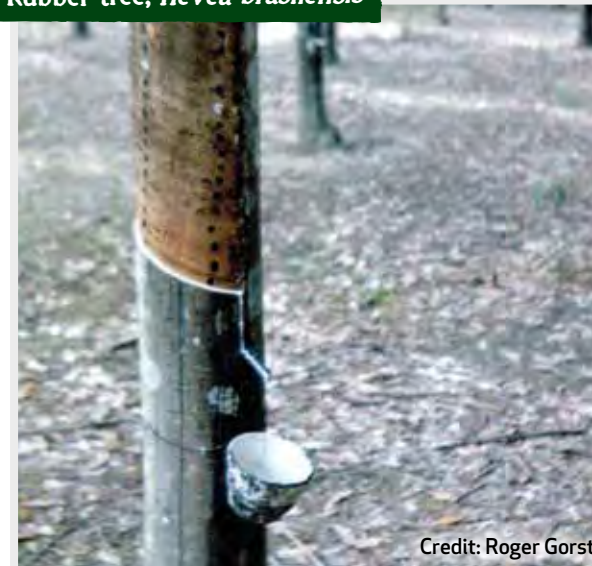
The expression 'up a gum tree', suggests a project has come to a sticky end. I discovered this expression comes from Australia and refers to possums taking refuge up a *Eucalyptus* tree (gum tree) when they're being hunted. Australia has many species of *Eucalyptus* including: white gum, *E.alba*; river red gum, *E.candensis*; and Sydney blue gum, *E.saligna*.

Not surprisingly, gum trees earn their name from the sticky substance that can be extracted from their bark, called kino. This was once used by aborigines for healing wounds and for curing toothache. *Eucalyptus* essential oils are derived from the leaves of the *Eucalyptus* trees.

Another tree that can exude a sticky substance from its trunk is the wild cherry. During the war I discovered that I could obtain this fresh glue from a couple of wild cherry trees (probably *Prunus avium*) at the bottom of our garden. It seemed to work for paper and small wooden models, taking a few days to set.



Rubber tree, *Hevea brasiliensis*



Credit: Roger Gorst

The rubber tree

A more widely used sticky substance is that from the *Hevea brasiliensis*, better known as the rubber tree. As the name suggests it is a native of Brazil but back in 1876 a British explorer, Henry Wickham, brought several thousand seeds back to Kew for germination. About 5 per cent were successfully propagated. These saplings were shipped to Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, and Malaysia to establish profitable plantations.

“The word rubber was initially derived from its ability to rub out pencil marks. However, its use became much more significant in the development of cart and car tyres.”

The sticky substance from these trees is latex. It's found between the thin bark and the cambium, so is not strictly the sap which runs inside the cambium layer. The latex is drawn off by tappers who cut a thin, shallow slice off the outer bark and collect the white liquid daily. This latex is then vulcanised to form rubber.

The word rubber was initially derived from its ability to rub out pencil marks. However, its use became much more significant in the development of cart and car tyres, firstly as a solid rubber tyre and then from the late 1880s as a pneumatic tyre (Dunlop). When Malaya was overrun by Japan during the Second World War, there was a serious shortage of rubber. Tyres were used until they were worn down to smooth rubber, re-treaded and used again, punctures were common so people soon learnt how to repair their inner tube!

Cinnamon

Another substance, which comes from the bark of a tree and was once very valuable is Cinnamon. *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* trees, grown mainly in Sri Lanka, are pollarded and the twigs are cut, outer bark is removed and the wet, sticky inner bark is dried before rolling into the quills sold in supermarkets.

Cork

Not a sticky substance, but worth a mention, is cork. This is the outer bark of *Quercus suber*, Cork Oak, which grows particularly well in Portugal. The outer bark, about 25mm thick, is cut off every 10 years or so and rolled into sheets for making into bottle corks, flooring and insulation materials.

About 10 gallons of Maple sap



Produces one gallon of Maple Syrup

Sugar Maple

Let us not forget the Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum*, the national tree of Canada. The production of Maple Syrup is relatively simple. The trees are drilled, a small tube inserted, tapped, and the watery sap collected. This is boiled off and filtered to provide Maple Syrup. About 10 gallons of sap produces one gallon of syrup. It sounds easy but a lot of trees are required and a lot of boiling!

Thank you Roger for such a fascinating article!

If you would like to contribute an article to the magazine, we'd love to hear from you. Simply email magazine@fowa.org.uk or send your article to: Magazine, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury, Glos GL8 8QS



A record breaking result for the Westonbirt 10k

▲ Credit: Bev Starkings

It was another glorious evening for the Westonbirt 10k this May. Amongst the runners were over 100 dedicated fundraisers, running for the trees to support our charitable work caring for the arboretum.

We're really excited to announce a record breaking result this year! £13,634 has been raised to date, which will help support environmental conservation work and projects that help to connect people with trees.

Here we focus on just a few of our fab fundraisers.

Top fundraiser

Lisa Cotter

“ Westonbirt is a very special place for my family, I have visited the arboretum since I was a child and continue to do so with my own daughter. As members, we visit as frequently as possible. For the past few years I have contemplated running the 10k. However, this year I decided it would be a great incentive to improve my fitness and also raise money for an amazing place (what's more... by raising money I'd then have no excuse to talk myself out of doing it).

The weather was amazing on the day and the atmosphere was great with so many people supporting. Running with so many other people was brilliant and really inspired me to do my best... although the last hill was a bit challenging on tired legs!! I'm so pleased I ran and was able to help Westonbirt Arboretum in my own small way. ”



Julian Hopkins

“ I decided to run the 10k because Westonbirt is a very special place to me... I think that an event like this is really important, as it raises an awareness of the arboretum to a wider audience.

Spring came early this year, and I hadn't been to the trees for a few weeks, so I was overwhelmed by the new growth of flowers and trees alike. It looked simply stunning. The route was clearly marked, and took in all of the arboretum, so whatever your reason for running, whether serious, fundraising or just for fun, you couldn't help getting lost in the beauty of it everywhere you looked.

I feel honoured to have been able to support such a great cause, and one that gives so many people of all walks of life such happiness and pleasure. ”

Charlotte Stirling

“ I started running a few months before with my friend and we both decided to set ourselves a challenge, so signed up for Westonbirt's 10k because of the stunning location. We felt a great sense of achievement after completing it.

It was a great evening, watched and supported by family and friends. I spent many great days at the arboretum as a child and now as an adult, so I was more than happy to raise funds for the trees. ”



Tara Chambers

“ This was my first ever 10k and so I called upon family, friends and colleagues for support my fundraising. My 'Tasty Tuesdays' bake sales went down a treat! I chose to run for the Friends of Westonbirt because since joining the Forestry Commission, Westonbirt Arboretum has become a place I love to visit for both work and pleasure with many fond memories made and hopefully many more to come. This was my chance to give something back. ”



Earlybird prize draw voucher winner

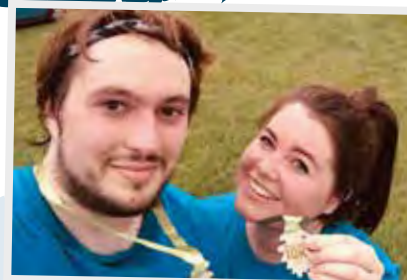
Sarah Steed

“ My order from Runners Need arrived and I have already been out running in my new outfit today – thanks so much. I feel very lucky to have been the winner. Looking forward to the 10k next year! ”



Jess Willats and Ben Jones

“ This was our first time running a 10k! It was tough but so magical running through the trees as the sun was going down, and all for such a great charity. ”



Sarah Wolferstan

“ I live locally and have enjoyed the arboretum on countless occasions both alone and with my young family. I've never run a 10k so it seemed a golden opportunity both to take my running up a level and help look after the trees. Plus I know the race sells out quickly so didn't want to miss out. Racing somewhere beautiful was definitely a motivator. ”



Dan Lygo

“ It was another fabulous day at Westonbirt for this year's 10k. The other competitors, volunteers, and organisers make it a really relaxed and friendly event, that I will certainly be running again next year. ”

Want to do your bit to support the arboretum? Find out more about fundraising at fowa.org.uk/fundraise

AGM update

New Trustees

At the charity's AGM in May this year, we were delighted to welcome two new trustees to the Board, Christine Burt and Martyn Smith. We also introduced Matt Ulyatt to members, who was appointed as a Forestry Commission nominated trustee in February 2018.

Christine Burt

Christine has a background in IT and has worked as a project manager for 25 years. She is keen to use her professional IT and project management skills to support the charity's objectives and success. Christine is passionate about the importance of trees and in particular the significant tree collection at Westonbirt for promoting general health and wellbeing for future generations.

Martyn Smith

Martyn has been visiting Westonbirt for over 35 years and is delighted to join the Board as Finance Trustee. Martyn brings extensive experience of governance in the charity sector, having served on the Board of a local housing association for 10 years (and three years as Chair), and is also a co-opted board member of a local charitable care home group.

Matt Ulyatt

Matt is a CIPFA qualified accountant working in Historic England's finance department providing him with good experience of charity finance. Matt brings relevant experience of charity finance as well as experience of working in a membership organisation.

Re-elected Trustees

Mike Mintram and Gavin Grant both stood for re-election to the Board, each having served on term of three years. Both were successfully re-elected by the membership for a second term of three years. Mike Mintram is currently Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Charity Articles

At the AGM a revised version of the charity's Articles was put to the membership for approval. The main reasons for revising the Articles were to acknowledge the role of the Chief Executive and make provision for authority to be delegated by the Board, to implement recommended changes to bring the charity's governance in line with best practice for the sector, and to ensure that the charity's procedures (particularly in relation to its AGM) were in line with relevant legislation.

Visit fowa.org.uk and click on "About us" to learn more and read our revised Articles in full.

Annual Review 2017

Welcome to the Friends' Annual Review for 2017

From completing the Heritage Lottery Funded activity to reviewing the charity's governance, from growing our membership to launching an appeal to restore the Wood Centre, it has been another busy year for the charity. FOWA continues to work closely with the Forestry Commission to secure the sustainable future of Westonbirt, the National Arboretum.



Membership

With more members than ever before, our membership team has really stepped up to ensure that we consistently deliver a high quality scheme to all our members, and that we continue to be seen to offer good value for money.

We worked hard to respond to the findings of the comprehensive membership survey (carried out in 2016), working alongside the Forestry Commission to improve members' experience when they visit the arboretum, and we added additional benefits to the membership package, such as discounts with off and on site retailers. We ended the year with almost 32,000 members, all of whom help to support the arboretum's future.



The Westonbirt Project

The Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £1.9m, awarded in 2012, has fundamentally changed the Westonbirt landscape: the construction of the Welcome Building allowed the restoration of the Grade I listed Downs area and heritage features, such as the ha ha and original Cotswold stone walls.

A BioBlitz event held in July 2017 showed that the restoration of the historic Downs has allowed a vast array of flora and fauna to flourish. Perhaps the most gratifying element of the grant has been the Community Programme. Staff and volunteers enabled 4,600 people from community organisations to benefit from the wonders of Westonbirt during the project. Five hundred and twenty-six sessions have been run involving over 133 community organisations, encouraging under-represented groups to visit and experience Westonbirt.

We're delighted to report that the Friends have enabled this important work to continue by providing funding for a permanent Community Officer.



Fundraising

Our fundraising team were also busy securing additional, much-needed funds to support the arboretum. One hundred charity runners raised over £10,000 between them, easily beating previous years' achievements.

The tree and bench sponsorship scheme continued to be very popular, raising over £30,000 as well as providing donors with a way of celebrating an occasion or remembering a loved one.

Planning permission for the works to restore the Wood Centre was granted in August 2017 and we began fundraising for this project shortly after, engaging with potential donors in a series of information events. The response from individual donors was humbling, with around 15 per cent of the £150,000 total being secured.



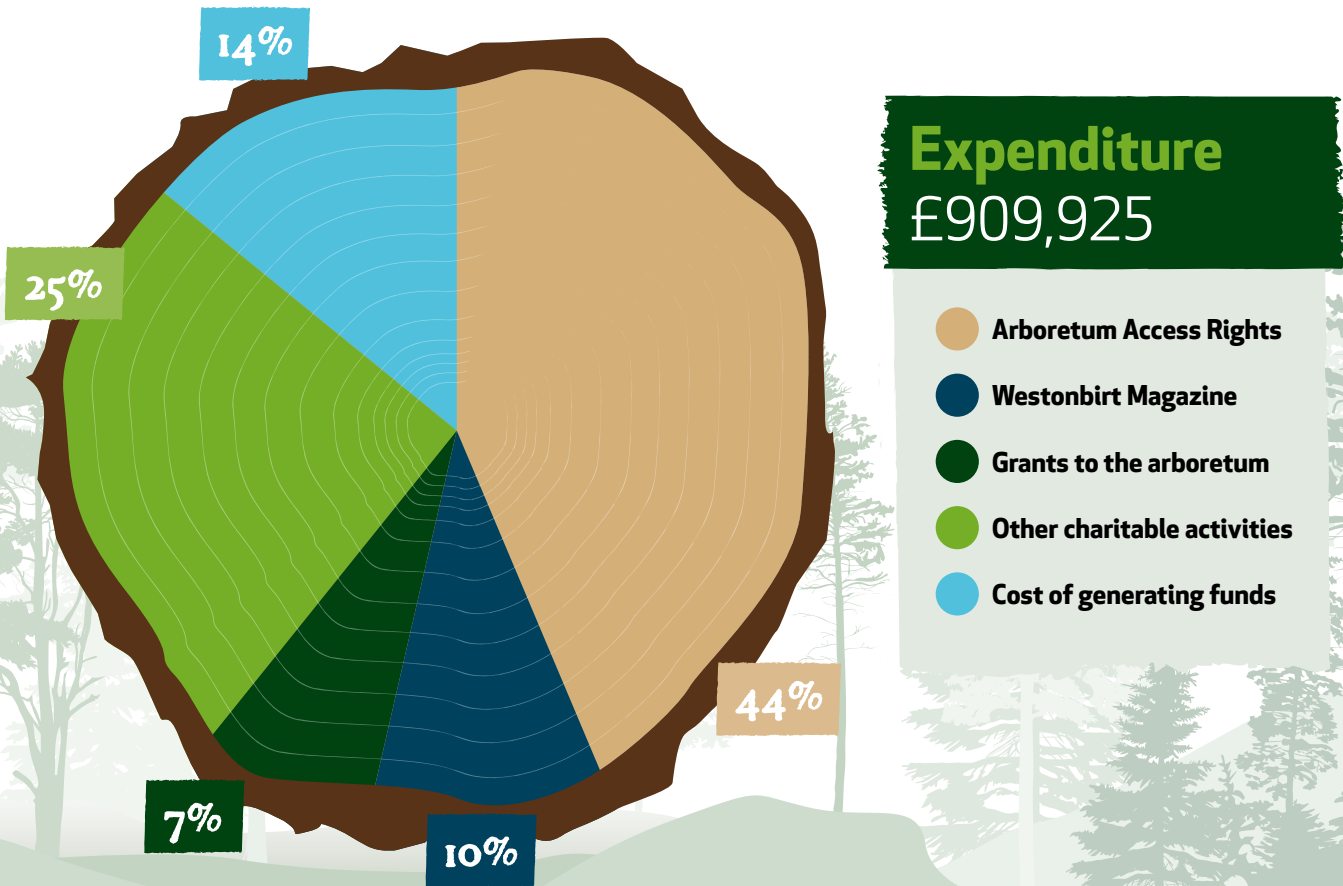
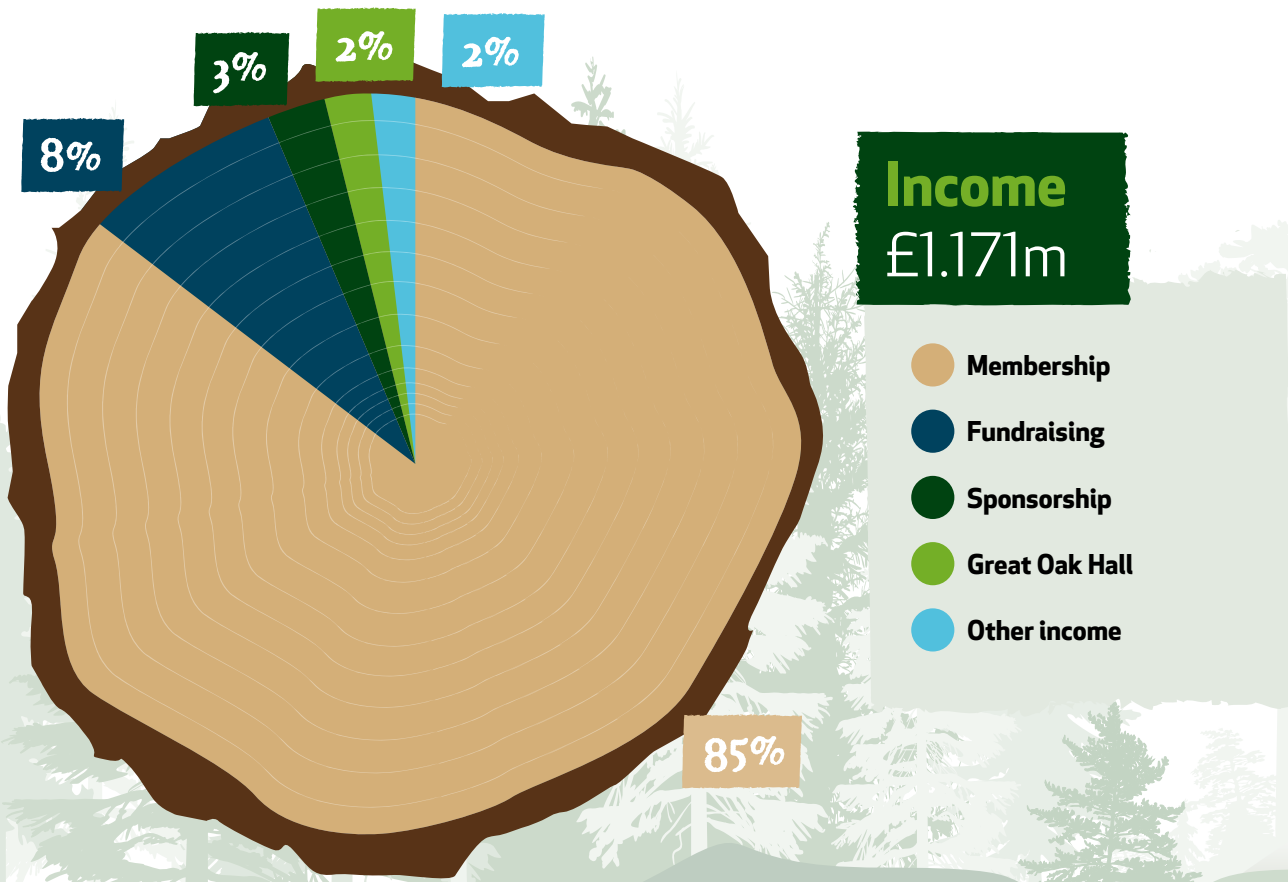
Governance

Towards the end of the year the charity conducted a review of its governance structures and processes, re-organising Board sub-committees to ensure that the charity can benefit from the Board's skills and expertise in the best ways.

Trustee succession planning saw new trustees being recruited to the Board, and we revised our Articles to ensure they are legally compliant and reflect sector best practice.

Financial overview

These income and expenditure figures were extracted from the full audited and unqualified accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017. Copies can be obtained from fowa.org.uk or by applying to the charity's office at Westonbirt, The National Arboretum. The annual accounts have been submitted to the Charity Commission and Companies House.



Membership

The charity ended the year with nearly 32,000 members.

Fundraising

We secured income from a variety of sources including generous individuals and charitable trusts.

Great Oak Hall

We secured income through hosting exhibitions and sales, as well as offering the hall as a venue for hire.

Sponsorship

We recognise £31,250 from STIHL in respect of their sponsorship of the STIHL Treetop Walkway.

Other income

Other income includes investments, advertising revenue and income from events.

Thank you to everyone who ticks the Gift Aid box for their membership subscription or donation – this enables us to claim an additional 25p for every £1 and makes a huge difference!

Arboretum Access Rights

This is the funding we provide to the arboretum in return for allowing our members year-round access to Westonbirt.

Grants to the arboretum

This is funding we have provided to support vital activities on and off site (e.g. seed collecting trips abroad, essential site maintenance etc.)

Westonbirt Magazine

The costs of producing our regular members' magazine, to engage our members and inform them about the arboretum, its history, current projects and future plans.

Other charitable activities

Funding we spent achieving our charitable aims of "furthering public enjoyment and knowledge of this world renowned tree collection and securing its sustainable future by engaging, informing and increasing our membership, and also by giving financial and practical assistance to the management and development of Westonbirt Arboretum."

Cost of generating funds

The costs associated with generating income from all sources other than from undertaking charitable activities.

Future plans

Having completed the Westonbirt Project, which was the primary focus of the 2013–2017 Arboretum Strategy, the priority for Westonbirt will be to define its vision for the future and set a new strategy which builds on the successes of recent years.

Membership

In order to support the arboretum's sustainable future, we plan to continue to grow our membership so that we can engage more people in the work of the arboretum and provide increased support to the arboretum's management. The increase in annual payment to the Forestry Commission has enabled an additional three staff to be employed to support the ongoing management of the arboretum, including a Collections Manager to support the Curator.

Fundraising

The Forestry Commission has a number of projects planned over the next few years, which will require funding. We are committed to helping make these plans a reality through our fundraising efforts from a variety of sources. Projects will include: the restoration of the Wood Centre, a new shelter for the Community Programme, additional staff resource for the Community Programme, upgrades to the bio-security facilities in the Propagation Unit and new 'wild play' features to replace old equipment.

Succession planning

Planned changes to the charity's Articles mean that Trustee tenure will be limited to nine years, in line with best practice guidance. This means that a number of Trustees will be stepping down in 2018 and 2019. It is important that we undertake careful succession planning to ensure the charity can continue to benefit from the necessary skills and experience that an effective Board brings.

A Trustee recruitment process was undertaken at the end of 2017, and three new Trustees have joined the Board. We will look to add to the range of skills and experience they bring, so that the Board can support the charity to achieve its objectives.

And finally...

We are so very grateful to the following funders for their support for the arboretum: The Finnis Scott Foundation, The HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust and The Violet Flanagan Charitable Trust.

We were humbled by the incredible support shown by individual donors in response to our appeal for support for the restoration of the Wood Centre, almost £20,000 had been raised towards the £140,000 target by the end of the year. With fundraising only starting in September, this was a great achievement and we are enormously grateful to everyone who has supported the project so far.

Lastly, we recognise that none of the support we provide to the arboretum would be possible without our members. By becoming a Friend of Westonbirt Arboretum, and renewing your membership each year, you help us to ensure the sustainable future of this remarkable place.

Thank you!



The Great Oak Hall hosts a prestigious event

We were delighted to welcome the Royal Forestry Society to the Great Oak Hall for their 'Excellence in Forestry' award ceremony recently.

"I can't thank you enough for the help and support you've given us. If only all of our events could be hosted in a place like Westonbirt! The event was a great success, in no small part down to the beautiful location, the wonderful Great Oak Hall, the fabulous food provided by your onsite caterer Calcot and the help and support of the Forestry Commission staff who ensured everything ran smoothly. A wonderful time was had by all and we wouldn't hesitate to use the Great Oak Hall again for future events."

RFS's Claire Street, Event Organiser

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 From £315

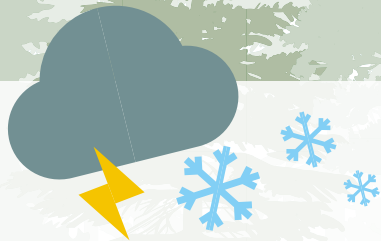
Your hire includes:

- 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

For more information or to book call **0300 067 3301**
email **greatoakhall@fowa.org.uk**
or visit **fowa.org.uk/venue-hire**



Nature's fireworks



Winter conditions can be a problem for trees. Stormy winds, ice and snow can all damage trees, and if the ground freezes tree roots can't take up water from the soil! By dropping their leaves, deciduous trees are better able to survive the winter.

Can you?

Create a leaf snake through the trees by stitching leaves together. Overlap two leaves and use leaf stalks or pine needles to pin them together.



Maple



Oak

Credit: Gina Mills

All leaves contain a green pigment called chlorophyll. This allows the leaves to absorb sunlight that the tree needs for growth. In autumn, deciduous trees break down the chlorophyll, allowing other leaf pigments to be seen.

A whole leaf rarely changes colour in one go. They often reveal their hidden pigments in spotty or blotchy patterns. For some leaves you can see the changing colour following the veins.

It is important that trees drop their leaves at the right time. If trees drop their leaves too early they lose good growing time and if too late they could be damaged by winter weather. The key trigger for leaf fall is the reducing number of daylight hours.

DID YOU KNOW?

An oak tree drops around 250,000 leaves in autumn.

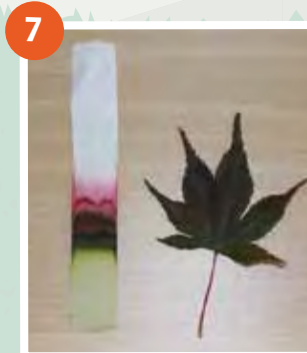
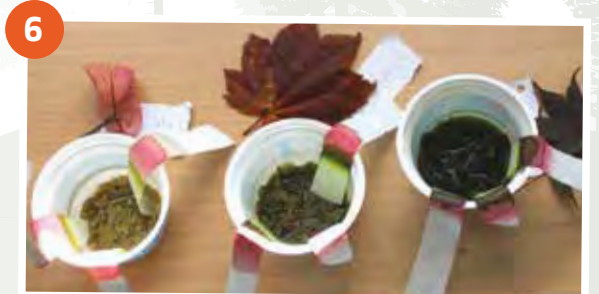
Leaf chromatography

Chromatography involves separating the different parts of a liquid. You need a material, such as filter paper, that will slowly absorb the liquid. Each substance will form a separate band on the paper.

With leaf chromatography you are separating out the different pigments found in a leaf. It helps you to see hidden colours. If you do this when the leaves are still green, you can tell what colour they will turn in autumn!

What to do

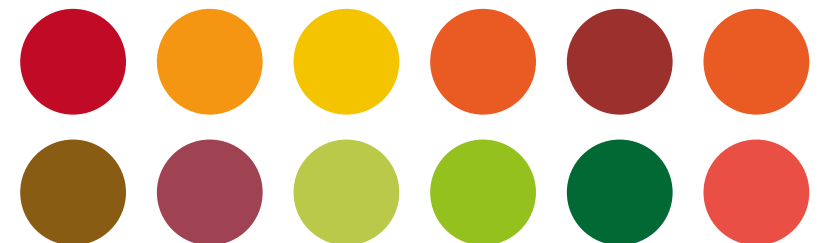
- 1 Choose a coloured leaf of your choice.
- 2 Using scissors, cut the leaf into little pieces.
- 3 Place the leaf pieces into a jar and add a little water.
- 4 Keep mashing up the leaf in the water. The leaf pigments will change the colour of your water.
- 5 Cut a coffee filter paper, paper towel or kitchen paper into strips and dip it into the liquid.



Place the filter paper strip into the jar. Leave for a few hours or overnight. You may see bands of green chlorophyll, red anthocyanins, brown tannins, yellow and orange carotenes.

Colour spotter

How many of these colours can you spot in the arboretum this autumn? Can you come up with some interesting names for the colours you see?



REMEMBER! If something is attached to a tree, the tree still needs it!

Volunteer at the National Arboretum

Westonbirt has over 260 volunteers who generously give their time, skills and experience to help care for the National Arboretum. Each year they give around 22,500 hours to the arboretum! Without their help and experience we would be unable to deliver many of the activities we treasure and enjoy so much.

Here are just a few of the areas they help us with:



Learning

These are the guys who help to inspire the next generation of nature lovers. They help us prepare the fantastic arts and crafts activities we run during our school holiday family events and assist with school visits to the arboretum.



Guiding

A guided walk is a brilliant way for our members to discover the history and background of the arboretum and uncover some hidden gems – and nobody knows the arboretum better than our guides who put on a guided walk every day throughout our peak season – sometimes twice a day.

“Why do I do it? I love trees! I love the whole outdoor experience and sharing it with our visitors... it's an amazing place to feel a part of.”

A Guide and Welcome Volunteer



Shuttle drivers

Our wonderful team of volunteer shuttle drivers help visitors to make the most of their time with us by enabling the less mobile to have better access to the Old Arboretum and our wonderful facilities, such as the Westonbirt shop and restaurant.

“It's beautiful! The people are lovely to work with. I get to use my skills and knowledge in horticulture but I'm still learning so much... and it's wonderful to feel that I am ultimately producing new trees for Westonbirt!”

Propagation Volunteer

Credit: Paul Box



Photography

Our superb team of photography volunteers head out into the arboretum every week and bring us back many of the stunning photos you see on the Westonbirt Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

Why not become a volunteer?

Become part of our vibrant, friendly and exciting community of volunteers, and make a difference at the National Arboretum.

A few reasons to volunteer...

- Meet like-minded people and make new friends.
- Share your love of the outdoors and help to bring Westonbirt to life for all our visitors.
- Make a real difference. Whether supporting our visitor services, tree, learning or community team, you are helping to maintain an important community and conservation project.
- Learn new skills and receive training.
- Fun social events throughout the year.
- Biscuits and cake – it goes without saying!

Interested?

Come along to our volunteer recruitment coffee morning on Saturday 10 November in the Great Oak Hall at 10:30am.

We'll show you a short presentation about the arboretum and you can meet existing volunteers. Louise and Alice, from our volunteering office, will be able to answer any questions about volunteering, and you can chat about what roles might interest you.

There's no need to book, and you don't have to commit on the day – just pop in and see if volunteering at Westonbirt could be for you, and, of course, there will be cake!

New Plant and Flower Spotter's Guide

After the enormous success of our 'Tree Spotter's Guide' last year, we are thrilled to announce the launch of the second book in the series: **Westonbirt Arboretum's Plant and Flower Spotter's Guide.**

This is the perfect pocket sized companion to help you ID woodland flora and fauna in your walks around the British countryside. Written by Tree Spotter's author, our very own Dendrologist Dan Crowley, and Forest Research Biologist Matt Parratt, the book gives expert advice on how to ID 100 of your favourite woodland plants. We caught up with the authors to find out a little more about the book.

Can you tell us a little more about how the book came about?

Dan: I went to London to attend a meeting with Penguin to discuss the possibility of a sequel to the 'Tree Spotter's Guide' – the result was the Plant and Flower Spotter's Guide! Once we had decided on woodland plants as a theme, with a particular focus on non-woody plants, I knew there was one man to pair up with, and I got in touch with Matt. We then came up with a list of plants and began composing the accounts of each plant and sharing the images with Louise Morgan, our wonderful illustrator.

Westonbirt Arboretum's Plant and Flower Spotter's Guide is now available to purchase from the Tidings at the Westonbirt shop or online at forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-AZRFB3

What was the hardest thing about writing the book?

Dan: Deciding what to leave out! It would have been great to include everything. We had to be absolutely ruthless!

Why do you think that it is important that people are able to ID different plants, flowers and trees?

Matt: Well, it's enjoyable, of course, and it's important to be able to engage with what's around you, to know what you are looking at. It also helps to make people aware of conservation – after all, effective conservation can only be achieved if we know what we have. If we don't, how can we preserve it?

Do you have any particular favourites from the book?

Matt: Definitely the ferns – which are often overlooked. If you're looking to spot a fern, the best time for them is early summer when they are fully unfurled and fresh!

Dan: To be honest, I can't pick a favourite, but I'd always say the trees!



'Tots & Twigs' Forest School getting back to nature

'Tots & Twigs' is an exciting pre-school forest learning programme launched this spring at Westonbirt Arboretum.

Learning with Nature, the Forestry Commission's learning partner at the arboretum, was overwhelmed by the response from parents asking for places on the programme.

So, we've doubled the number of places to meet demand for the first two courses. We now have 24 two to five-year olds taking part in 'Tots & Twigs' Forest School programme! The course will run over seven weeks and fit around school term times, allowing parents to attend between 10.15am – 11.45am and 12.30pm – 2pm.

Parents are encouraged to come with their children. The course will help to develop children's imaginations, creativity and self-esteem as they enjoy exploring different areas of the arboretum.

The forest school engages young children with nature, and helps parents to discover ways to make learning about nature interesting and fun. Each course has a wildlife focus, from looking at different trees and flowers to developing outdoor nature-based learning that includes bees, butterflies and snails. Children also enjoy wild art using natural materials to stimulate their creativity.

We use stories to help transport children to magical woodland places. They love going out to meet their own 'Hungry Caterpillar', find a 'Superworm' or create their own 'Stickman'.

Each week, the children sing songs, enjoy making something they can take away or just take time to explore the natural world. As a child-led programme, there is always something to suit every 'forest schooler'. It may be 'getting busy' in the mud kitchen, digging for worms or playing with the water activities. The final week brings children and parents around the fire to enjoy toasting marshmallows.

Westonbirt Arboretum is the perfect place for children to start their own great natural adventure.

Booking is essential due to a limited number of spaces and costs £49 if you are a Friend of Westonbirt Arboretum, (£56 for non-members).

Please contact the 'Tots & Twigs' team at enquiries@learning-with-nature.org for more information.

▼ Credit: Learning with Nature



The Friends of Westonbirt team

- Chief Executive** Felicia Willow (Interim Cover)
- Business Manager** Jacqueline Dalton
- Business Support Officer** Lorna Butcher
- Finance Officer** Maureen Nisbett
- Membership Manager** Jane Shute
- Membership Coordinator** Bev Starkings
- Membership Administrator** Kelly Hough
- Membership Development Supporter** Zara Johnson
- Fundraising Assistant** Gill Ball
- For general enquiries:**
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 | Trustees |
| HRH The Duchess of Cornwall | Mike Mintram (Chair) |
| Giles Coode-Adams OBE | John Hammond (Vice Chair) |
| Sir Henry Elwes KCVO | Christine Burt |
| Hon Beth Rothschild | Gavin Grant |
| Sir Crispin Tickell GCMG, KCVO | Margaret Headen |
| | Martyn Smith |
| President | Matt Ulyatt |
| Christopher Brickell CBE | Mike Howarth |
| | Malcolm Potter |
| Vice Presidents | Beth Weston |
| Roger Busby CBE | |
| Peregrine Pollen | |

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@forestryengland.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
louise.amato@forestryengland.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

A Christmas gift that keeps on giving!

Membership makes a wonderful gift that just keeps on giving all year round. Not to mention the incredible conservation work it helps support.

Enjoy Westonbirt Arboretum all year round!

£39 for single annual membership
£76 for joint membership

Bring up to four children for free

When you gift someone membership, they receive a host of membership benefits including discounted entry into reciprocal gardens, discounts off Enchanted Christmas Fridays, Earlybird notification for Forest Live events and discounts with selected partners! For full detail see fowa.org.uk/membership-benefits.

We can send the membership to you or directly to your lucky recipient in time for Christmas.

Purchase online at fowa.org.uk or pop into the Welcome Building when you next visit.

Gifted memberships need to be purchased by 14 December 2018 for Christmas delivery.

Terms and conditions - Membership is valid for entry 364 days of the year (closed Christmas Day)

Children must be under the age of 19 years and your own children or grandchildren

For full terms and conditions please refer to fowa.org.uk/membership-policy



WESTONBIRT CHARITIES FAIR

Held at Westonbirt School, Nr. Tetbury GL8 8QG

23rd AND 24th OCTOBER 2018 10AM - 5PM



A GREAT DAY OUT!

In aid of Home-Start Stroud District, Longfield Hospice, Gloucester Royal Hospital Intensive Care Unit, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum, The Door, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Marie Curie

130 Stalls with high quality unique gifts, fashion, food and more

Open Gardens ● Restaurant and Cafe ● Reindeer Hunt ● Free Parking ● Activity Club

Proudly sponsored by:



SPECIAL TICKET PRICE OF £5 TO FRIENDS OF WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM!

Visit www.westonbirtfair.org/ticketsdiscountarb.html