

Westonbirt

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

100 years of forestry



Vision for the future

Westonbirt Woodworks

Hidden gems

Art at the Arboretum

STIHL®

Create your own

GARDEN
MAGIC



Gardening tasks made simple.

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 products.

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

The STIHL COMPACT
cordless garden
range from

£199*

Find your local dealer at www.stihl-magic.co.uk   

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|----|
| Events | 5 |
| A new vision for Westonbirt | 10 |
| Membership benefits | 14 |
| Art at the Arboretum | 21 |
| Our Coppice Shelter appeal | 23 |
| The Big Forest Find | 27 |
| A gift for future generations | 36 |
| My memories of Westonbirt | 38 |
| Family fun | 40 |
| Completing the Westonbirt cycle of life | 48 |
| Wellbeing in the woods | 51 |
| News | 52 |
| 33 rd AGM | 56 |
| Hidden gems | 59 |
| Photo-Synthesis memories project | 60 |
| Cows help out | 62 |
| The Friends of Westonbirt team | 63 |

Features



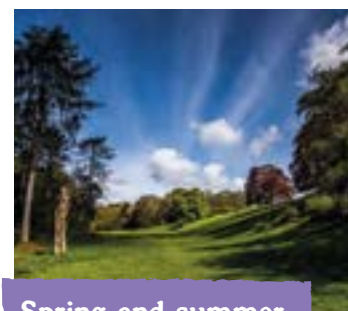
A time of growth 12



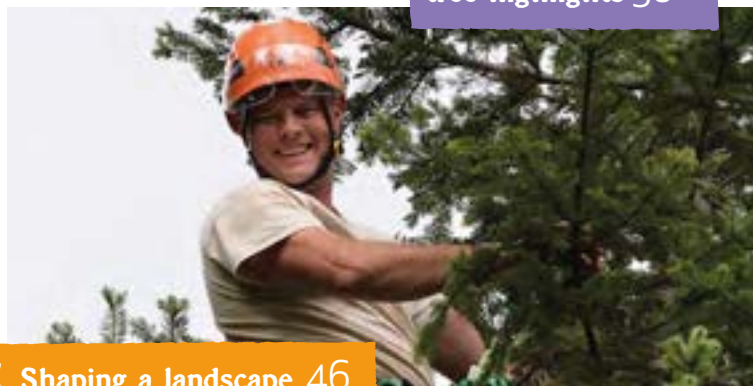
How many trees? 18



Centenary Glade 24



Spring and summer tree highlights 30



Shaping a landscape 46

Westonbirt

Issue 114, Spring & Summer 2019:
March – August
© 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:

Jane Shute
Rebecca Hare
Alison Cobb
Jo Murray

Views expressed in the Westonbirt magazine are not necessarily those of the Friends of 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.

Taking up the reins at FOWA



I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Chief Executive of the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum, having started in January. I am enjoying learning more about the incredible work we help to support at the National Arboretum having been a long time visitor to the site.

Before joining the charity I helped to achieve great success in my role as the Chief Executive at Arnos Vale Cemetery, a multi award winning heritage and wildlife destination in the heart of Bristol and I look forward to bringing along this experience to deliver new opportunities for the Friends.

Prior to my arrival at the charity and following the departure of previous Chief Executive, Anna-Clare, the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum had been working under the support of Felicia Willow, an expert charity consultant. During this period Felicia helped guide the organisation through structural changes ensuring that we are now best placed to work in partnership with the Forestry Commission for the benefit of the Arboretum.

As members, I would urge you to try and attend the AGM, which will be held at the Great Oak Hall on the 22 May at 6pm. The AGM is the prime opportunity for you, our members, to influence how the charity carries out its work. On page 58 you will find details for the meeting so please consider coming along and having your say on our work.

In the meantime, I hope you will come and enjoy the beautiful spring blooms here at Westonbirt – it's a wonderful time of year to enjoy our magnificent tree collection.

Mike Coe
Chief Executive

Climate change threatens lives and trees



During the drought of 1995, while working in Nottinghamshire, I dialled 999 four times one Sunday to report fires. The last of these incidents was a stubble fire encroaching on the forest. I drove across a field and left the Forestry Commission vehicle to investigate.

Distracted, I suddenly realised that the fire was sweeping towards me and might cut me off from my vehicle. I thought I could get back through a 20-metre gap between the fire and forest edge. By the time I got there it was down to five metres. It was only a few seconds of confusion, panic and intense heat. I survived with nothing worse than a singed shirt. Fire engines arrived and barely an acre of forest got burnt.

The fire was a mere flicker compared to the conflagrations affecting California at the end of 2018. I can only imagine the terror faced by those who didn't make it, and the trauma of survivors who lost everything. I was surprised to hear the President blame poor forest management. I didn't get to hear what 'good forest management' would look like, perhaps bulldozing trees away from the edges of settlements?

The Californian fires highlight two of several threats, climate change and development, affecting the world's trees. It also highlights the importance of our work at the Arboretum. In this edition, we report on the latest efforts to identify all our planet's trees and introduce our vision for the future of the Arboretum, as we seek to play our part in global tree conservation.

Andrew Smith
Arboretum Director

Coming up

Welcome to our spring and summer events calendar. We're excited to be holding lots of different activities - there's something for everyone!

Guided Walks and Tours

Wonders of Westonbirt Guided Walk

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

Daily from 11am Free after admission

Silk Wood Guided Walk

Our expert volunteers will guide you round the ancient woodland, and reveal some hidden gems of Silk Wood.

Weekends from 2pm Free after admission

Behind the Scenes Tours

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

First Sat/Sun of the month Apr through to Oct inclusive, from 11am Free after admission

Wildflower Walks

Explore the flora of Westonbirt Arboretum on a guided walk.

First Tuesday of the month Apr through to Oct inclusive, from 1.30pm Free after admission

For children and families



Buggy Fit

An opportunity to regain your fitness after having a baby.

Every Friday morning from 10.30am

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/buggyfit

Tree Quest

Are you up for our tree challenge? Come and have a go at our plant hunter activities if you think you are.

Sat 9 and Sun 10 Mar, 11am - 3pm

Location: Welcome Building. Free after admission

Feathered Friends

Discover our native birds first hand then give them a helping hand by making your own bird feeder to take home.

Mon 8 - Fri 12 Apr, 11am - 4pm, Learning Centre

Free after admission

Find out more

Visit www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt or call the Forestry Commission on 0300 067 4890 to find out more information about any of our events.

Perfect Partners

Explore Westonbirt's amazing spring flowers and discover their secret admirers.

Mon 15 – Thu 18 Apr, 11am – 4pm

Location: Silk Wood Barn. Free after admission

Look What's Rustling!

Put your detective hat on and help us search for what's living at Westonbirt (besides our trees!) Record your finds as part of our Big Forest Find 'Bioblitz' event.

Tue 28 May – Sat 1 Jun, 11am – 4pm

Location: Learning Centre. Free after admission

Meet Our Machines

Find out more about the work of our tree team, meet their machines and have a go at our throw line challenge.

Sat 6 and Sun 7 Jul, 11am – 4pm Free after admission

Seed Champions

Discover record breaking seeds and explore the reasons behind their incredible variety.

Mon 29 Jul – Fri 2 Aug, 10.30am – 4pm

Location: Silk Wood Barn. Free after admission

Growing Champions

Come and discover the giants of the forest. Use our microscopes to explore the structure of trees and make a craft from wood to take away.

Mon 5 – Fri 9 Aug, 10.30am – 4pm

Location: Silk Wood Barn. Free after admission

Team Champions

Join us to investigate the remarkable ways trees work together.

Mon 12 – Fri 16 Aug, 10.30am – 4pm

Location: Silk Wood Barn. Free after admission

Going for Green

It's a jungle out there – come and explore the champion leaves that make it grow!

Mon 19 – Fri 23 Aug, 10.30am – 4pm

Location: Silk Wood Barn. Free after admission

Good for Age Champions

Discover the trees that grow old gracefully and the youngsters in a hurry!

Mon 26 – Fri 30 Aug, 10.30am – 4pm

Location: Silk Wood Barn. Free after admission

Discovery Sessions

Engage your senses and discover more about Westonbirt's trees, wildlife and how we care for the collection. There will be a different theme each month.

1pm – 4pm

Sat 27, Sun 28 April

Sat 25, Sun 26 May

Sat 29, Sun 30 June

Sat 24, Sun 25 Aug

Active Forest Events

Westonbirt Duathlon

Tough Runner UK introduce a 5K run through Westonbirt Arboretum, followed by a 22K bike ride, followed by a 5K run! Are you up for the challenge?

Sun 24 Mar, 9am

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/duathlon

Tree Climbing

As well as giving you a rush of adrenaline, tree climbing brings you closer to nature and to exploring the natural world.

Sun 14 Apr, Wed 29 May, Sat 10 Aug

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/tree-climbing



Westonbirt 10K

With a route that takes you past champion trees and some of the rarest species in the world, Westonbirt 10K certainly isn't your average run.

Thu 9 May, 7pm

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/10k

SOLD OUT

Workshops and Courses

Crafty Gardeners – Planning Planting

Designing a garden full of plants that look attractive all year requires some forward planning, this all day workshop can help.

Wed 13 Mar, 10am – 4pm

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/planning-planting

Spring at Westonbirt

Paint in acrylics or oils with professional painter and tutor Max Hale.

Thu 11 Apr, 10am – 3.30pm

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/spring-westonbirt

Willow Sculpture Workshop

Create your very own wonderful willow sculpture in a relaxed and fun environment.

Sat 30 Mar, Sat 18 May, Sat 20 Jul, Sat 19 Oct, 10am – 4pm

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/willow-sculpture

Impressions of Westonbirt – Creative Abstracts Photography workshop



This fun and challenging one day workshop is designed to help you look beyond the obvious and develop your creative eye.

Thu 12 Mar & Thu 4 Apr, 9.15am – 5pm

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/impressions-westonbirt

Beginners Photography Course

Aimed primarily at the beginner or those who have a digital camera but lack the confidence/knowledge to move away from the Auto Mode setting.

Mon 29 Apr, 10.30am – 3.30pm

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/beginners-photography

Windsor Chair Making Course

Create your very own Windsor chair by using traditional skills in the beautiful surroundings of Westonbirt.

**29 Apr – 4 May, 6 – 11 May, 3 – 8 Jun, 10 – 15 Jun,
1 – 6 Jul, 8 – 13 Jul, 5 – 10 Aug, 12 – 17 Aug, 9am – 5pm**
www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/windsor-chair



Rustic Chair Making

From a pile of hazel rods, create and take home your own bespoke chair at the end of the day.

**Fri 10, Sat 11, Sun 12 May and Fri 21, Sat 22,
Sun 23 Jun, 10am – 6pm**

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/rustic-chair

Intermediate Photography Course

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

Fri 10 May, 10.30am – 3.30pm

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/intermediate-photography

Summer Flower Posy Workshop

Spend a relaxing morning learning how to make a beautiful hand tied posy using fresh summer flowers bursting with colour and scent.

**Sat 1 Jun,
10.30am – 12.30pm**

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/flower-workshop



Beekeeping for Beginners

Discover the wonders of the beehive and how you can keep your own honey bees at home!

Sat 8, Sun 9, Sat 29 and Sun 30 Jun, 10am – 5pm
www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/beekeeping

Printing with Leaves

Printing directly from leaves, you will create beautiful botanical designs using a heat press.

Fri 5 Jul, 10am – 4pm

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/printing-leaves

High Summer at Westonbirt

Paint in watercolour with professional painter and art tutor Max Hale.

Thu 11 July, 10am – 3.30pm

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/summer-westonbirt

Concerts

Forest Live: Paul Weller

SOLD OUT

Don't miss this British music icon play at our stunning tree collection.

Fri 14 Jun

Forest Live: Jack Savoretti

2019 will see the release of Jack's sixth studio album, 'Singing to Strangers'.

Sat 15 Jun

Forest Live: Hacienda Classical

Featuring the DJs who perform alongside the Manchester Camerata Orchestra to recreate old school house and club anthems.

Sun 16 Jun

Coming up in the Great Oak Hall...

Free tours

Watch out for the 'We're open!' sign outside the Great Oak Hall periodically at weekends and find out about its history and construction by our volunteer Great Oak Hall stewards, who are happy to show you around this magnificent traditional medieval-styled building.

Exhibitions

Ashleigh Proud

Bristol-based artist Ashleigh combines enamel and printmaking. She is inspired by the natural world, creating unique three-dimensional pieces based on flora and fauna including framed pieces, trinket boxes, keyrings and broaches.

Sat 13 – Tue 23 April

www.ashleighproud.com



Laura Carter

Laura's images are a formal inquiry into the relationship between photography and abstract painting, utilising similar fields of colour and abstract forms in her style to bring her landscapes to life.

Fri 3 – Wed 8 May

www.laura-carter.co.uk

Max Hale and Paul Weaver

Max's developed style is loose. He paints in all mediums and his work adorns households worldwide. Paul's primary inspirations are light and atmospheric effects. Both artists are tutors, prize winners and regular contributors to *The Artist* magazine.

Fri 24 – Thu 30 May

www.paulweaverart.co.uk

www.maxhaleart.co.uk



▲ Sunlit Roses

A new vision for Westonbirt



▲ Credit: Paul Box



In April 2019 we'll be publishing a new strategy for the Arboretum. We'll also report on progress against the plans set out in our previous strategy 'Branching Out' that oversaw the successful implementation of the Westonbirt Project.

Andrew Smith, Arboretum Director

In consulting on how to frame a new strategy, two overarching themes emerged. Firstly, for a place like an arboretum, where we plant trees that may live for 200 years or more, we need a forward perspective that is longer than just five years. Secondly, there was a feeling that we need some kind of future vision to guide our work.

Significant anniversaries

On timescales we have a happy coincidence that we have entered a decade that is book-ended by two significant anniversaries. During 2019 we are celebrating the centenary of the Forestry Commission.

At Westonbirt we will be playing our part in a series of activities to mark a century of British Forestry (see page 24–26). Ten years later, 2029 marks the bicentenary of the Arboretum. We have no formal foundation date but we do know that in 1829 when Robert Holford reached the age of 21 he started planting trees in what is now the Old Arboretum.

“A world leader in trees, inspiring people through education, participation and conservation.”

We have developed a vision to be 'a world leader in trees, inspiring people through education, participation and conservation'. It's a tall order for 12 words to sum up all we do and everything we want to be. Every word must earn its keep, and I've spent some time discussing with staff, members, trustees and volunteers what these words mean for the Arboretum.

Westonbirt was awarded the status of National Arboretum in 2001. As the National Arboretum we automatically have a place on the world stage, we have links with overseas institutions and are well respected by those we deal with. However, as we face the challenges of the next century we need to undertake our international role with renewed commitment. The word 'a' acknowledges that we won't be a lone leader, but will collaborate with like-minded people around the world.

Clearly 'trees' are our thing. Being 'a world leader in trees' gives us licence to do whatever appears relevant at the time and we will need that flexibility to respond to unknown opportunities.

'Inspiring people' is the link to our existing mission 'to connect people with trees, and improve the quality of life'. Inspiring people to visit, to join as members and to contribute their time and funds is our route to success. As Director, I'm acutely aware that we need inspiring people as staff and volunteers to achieve this.

'Education' is more than just school years, it is pre-school, college, and beyond through all life stages. We are particularly keen to develop our science capability and links with academic institutions. Our community work, volunteering and membership is recognised by 'participation', we aspire to every visit being immersive and more than just a walk in the trees.

'Conservation' of genetic tree resources is at the heart of what we do. We wish to develop the wider biodiversity of the Arboretum and are charged with conserving its landscape and heritage. We must also improve our sustainable use of resources by reducing energy use and waste.

'Litmus test'

I am keen to use the vision in two further ways. Firstly, to make the four 'goals' of inspiring people, education, participation and conservation a litmus test of how we do things. We will challenge ourselves when undertaking any activity to ensure it can achieve those four goals. Secondly: education, participation and conservation are our 'good causes'. It requires £300,000 a year to run our learning and community programmes and £500,000 to manage the national tree collection. We must raise awareness of our good causes at every opportunity.



▲ Credit: Paul Box

A time of growth and new life

As the days get longer and temperatures rise, the Arboretum is full of new growth and new life. After the long winter months, migrating birds return, hibernating animals emerge, blossoms hang in abundance and a wonderful feeling of energy and optimism embraces the woodlands.

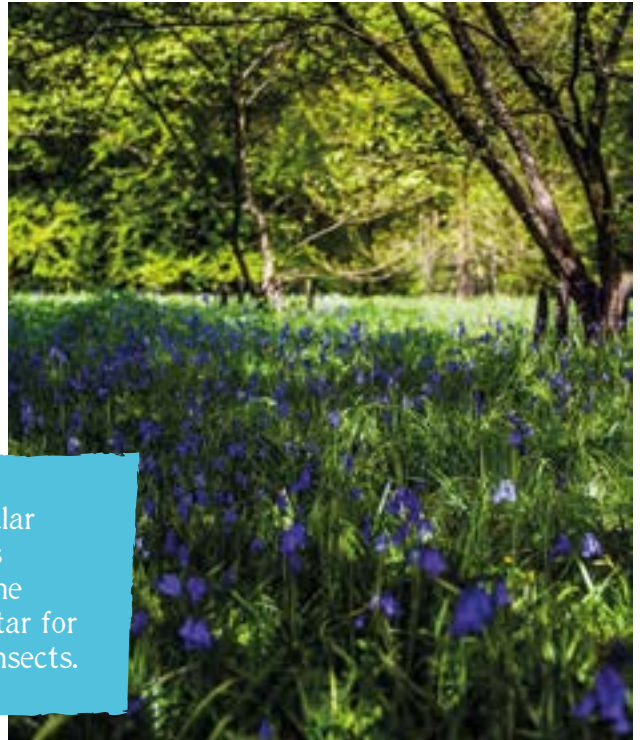
The spring equinox on 20 March, when daytime and nighttime are roughly equal, marks the astronomical start of spring. One of the most distinctive voices to return to woodlands in the warmer months is the cuckoo. The famous call of the male bird is a sure sign that spring is well underway.



Cuckoos enjoy a rather mixed reputation. Their charming call masks some darker practices. These summer visitors lay their eggs in the nests of other birds such as meadow pipits, dunnocks and reed warblers. Yet this is all part of nature's way and sadly their numbers are declining, putting them on the growing 'red list' of endangered birds.

As colours and fresh growth begin to break up the harsh landscape of winter, Westonbirt's kaleidoscope of colour is just beginning. Magnolias, camellias and rhododendrons display their beauty against the backdrop of wild flowers and hanging boughs full with fresh blossoms.

Our Cherry Collection in Silk Wood is a wonderful sight, with the vibrant flowers of specimens such as cherry plum, *Prunus cerasifera* 'Purple Flash' and *Prunus cerasifera* 'Hessei'. Later in the year the North American tulip tree in Jackson Avenue is full of beautiful yellow and orange flowers.



Bluebells are one of the most spectacular woodland flowers. Silk Wood is always a good place to enjoy their majesty. The flowers provide an early source of nectar for bees, hoverflies, butterflies and other insects.



Westonbirt is home to green, great spotted and lesser spotted woodpeckers. The familiar drumming of beaks on tree bark is a sure sign that a woodpecker is foraging for insects nearby. They are well designed for the job, with chisel-like bills, long tongues and two forward facing toes for better grip on round branches. The green woodpecker is the largest of the woodpecker species in Britain.

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

Membership benefits

As a Friend of Westonbirt Arboretum, your membership entitles you to some great benefits!



Entry into Westonbirt Arboretum to enjoy every season



Bring up to 4 of your own children or grandchildren free of charge (age 18 and under)



Regular Friends' eNews and magazine



Half-price Fridays for Enchanted Christmas



Earlybird presale notification for Forest Live concerts

Plus...

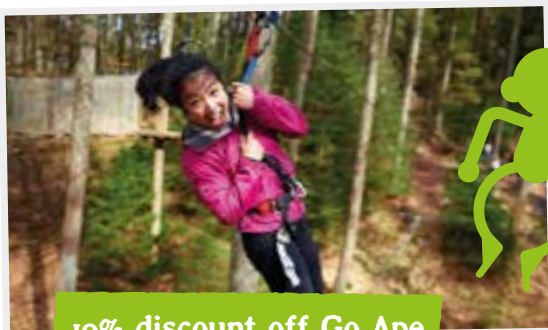
NEW 50% off entry into Westonbirt House's Gardens

We are delighted to announce that Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum can receive 50% off the entry fee when producing your valid membership card. This will mean entry is a mere £2.50 to enjoy a quiet leisurely stroll around the spectacular grounds. No booking required, simply go to reception, present your card, sign in and enjoy!

Westonbirt House's Gardens are open from April to October in 2019, Monday to Fridays, 2-5pm, excluding bank holidays.

Member Tuesdays

Bring a friend for free to Westonbirt Arboretum on Tuesdays until 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 per visit only.

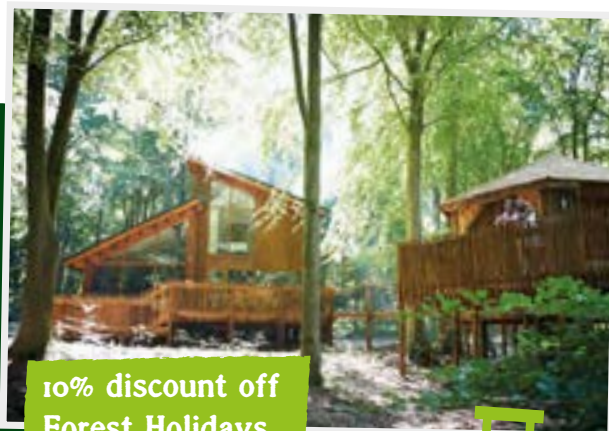


10% discount off Go Ape

Offer valid for all sites and all activities except Nets Kingdom until 31 December 2019.

Excludes: Saturdays, bank holiday, gift vouchers and corporate bookings. Participation and supervision ratios apply.

Please book online at goape.co.uk, using discount code **GAARB**



10% discount off Forest Holidays

Book online at forestholidays.co.uk using discount code **FOWA19** for breaks booked before 31 December 2019 and for breaks taken before 31 December 2020.



15% off selected Cotswold Outdoor, Runners Need and Snow + Rock lines

Buy online or present your membership card in-store with discount code **AF-FOWA-22**



10% off Cycle Surgery

Buy online or present your membership card in-store with discount code with code **AF-FOWA-22**



Partner gardens

As a Friend of Westonbirt Arboretum, you can also benefit from free entry into the partner gardens listed below.

Note: from 1 June 2019, free entry into Bedgebury Pinetum, Royal Botanical Gardens Kew and Wakehurst Place will be replaced with the discounted offers – see below.

- **Batsford Arboretum Moreton-in-Marsh**
Gloucestershire, www.batsarb.co.uk
- **Bedgebury National Pinetum Goudhurst***
Kent, www.bedgeburypinetum.org.uk
- **Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses**
Edgbaston, Birmingham,
www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk
- **The Yorkshire Arboretum Castle Howard**
York, www.yorkshirearboretum.org
- **National Botanic Gardens of Wales Llanarthne**
Carmarthenshire, www.botanicgarden.wales
- **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh**
(including Dawyck, Benmore and Logan)
Edinburgh, www.rbge.org.uk
- **Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Richmond****
Surrey, www.kew.org
- **Royal Botanic Gardens Wakehurst Place Ardingly****
Nr Haywards Heath, West Sussex, www.kew.org

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

For full details about membership benefits, visit fowa.org.uk/membership-benefits

* 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 www.bedgeburypinetum.org.uk for current admission costs.

** From 1 June 2019, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum will be able to take advantage of a two-for-one discount at Royal Botanical Gardens Kew & Wakehurst. 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 member visiting Kew or Wakehurst gardens alone will be required to pay the adult entry fee. All additional children over four years old 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.

DISCOVER
the forest


forest holidays

SAVE
10%

Escape to self-catering woodland cabins; choose from ten idyllic UK locations set in beautiful forests. From Scotland down to Cornwall and stunning locations in-between. Forest Holidays offer perfect getaways for families, couples, groups of friends and even your dog in our pet friendly cabins! After a day exploring the forest you can relax in your own private hot tub!

Call 03330 110495 or visit www.forestholidays.co.uk and enter code FOWA19 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 31/12/2019 and taken by 31/12/2020.



**Go
Ape!**
LIVE LIFE
ADVENTUROUSLY

UNLEASH
YOUR INNER APE



Book at goape.co.uk
quote GAARB

10% OFF
PER PERSON*

*Offer valid until 31 December 2019, excluding Saturdays, corporate events, bank holidays and purchase of gift vouchers. Participation and supervision ratios apply - please see our website.



Westonbirt House & Gardens

Westonbirt House and gardens, listed as Grade I on the National Register of Historic Parks & Gardens, are just a quarter of a mile from the Arboretum. The gardens were created by Robert Stayner Holford between 1840–1875, much of which was completed before work started on either the Arboretum or the magnificent Grade I listed house.

The house and gardens are some of the best surviving works by the architect Lewis Vulliamy (1789–1871). Vulliamy and his patron Holford, were strongly influenced by the Italian Renaissance. Their exuberant tastes are also reflected in the gardens, with the creation of elaborate and exotic garden features.

The gardens are open from April to October, Monday to Friday, 2–5pm (excl bank holidays).

Please note that whilst dogs are welcome in the pleasure grounds they **MUST** be kept on leads at all times and picked up after. Unfortunately, visitors are unable to take their dogs into the formal Italian Gardens.

In 2019 FOWA members receive 50% off entry price.
This means entry is just £2.50!



“The finest ensemble of Victorian architecture, landscape and gardens in the Cotswolds.”
Country Life Magazine



I am Chris

This is my outdoors

“Why would I go inside when I could be out here?”

Chris Hopwood, Store Expert

15% discount

for Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum

Full T&Cs apply. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Selected lines are exempt. Only valid on production of your FOWA identification in-store or use of code AF-FOWA-22 online. Offer expires 31.12.19

Trusted by our partners since 1974
Stores nationwide | cotswoldoutdoor.com

COTSWOLD
outdoor

Let's go somewhere



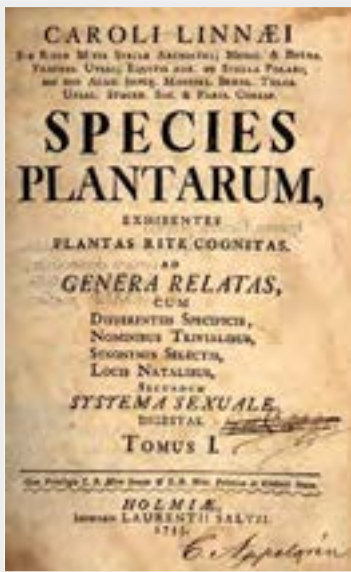


How many trees?

The Global Tree Search

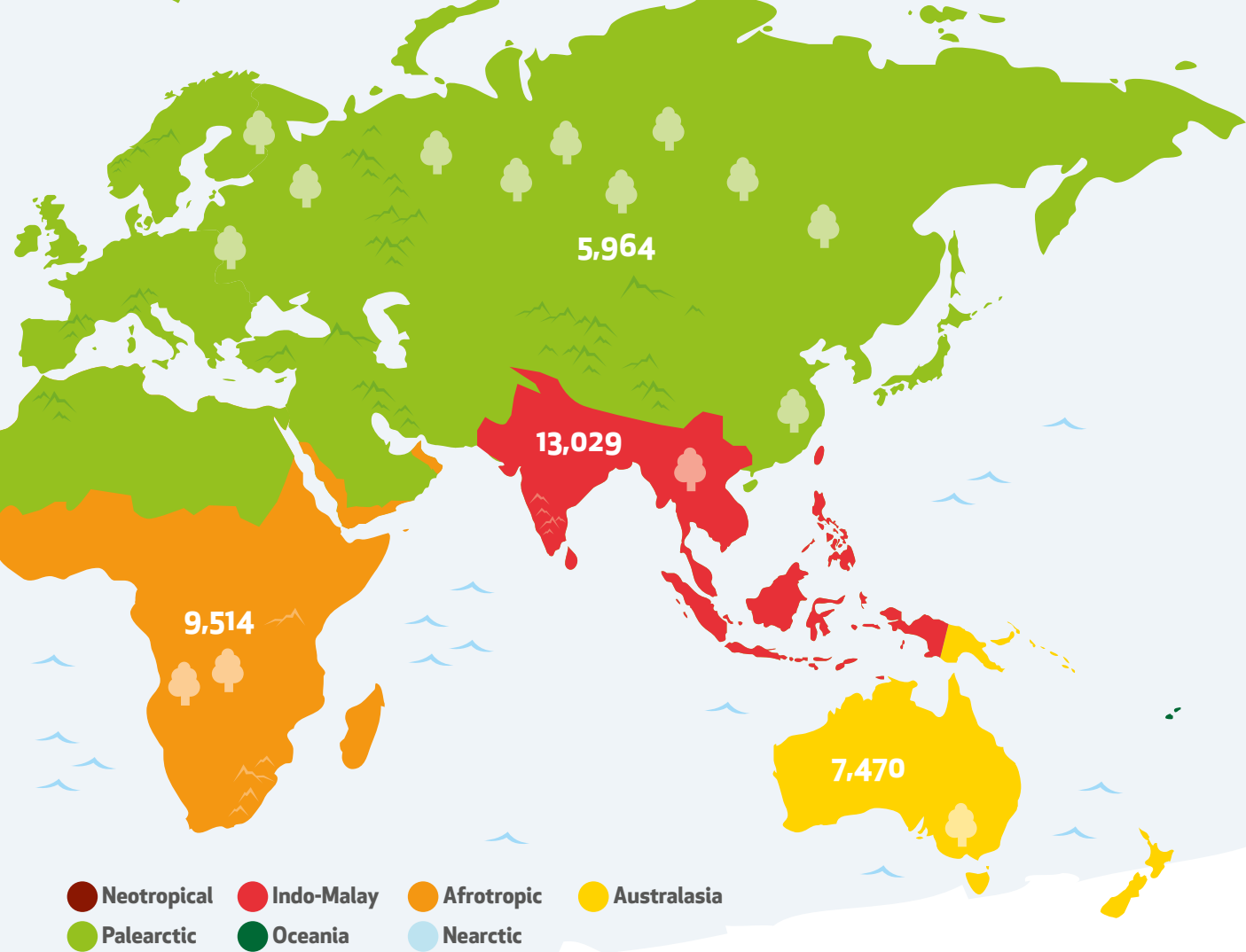
By Andrew Smith, Arboretum Director

It may surprise you to know that despite managing to land on the moon some 50 years ago, we had no real idea of how many tree species there are on earth until relatively recently!



Trees evolved around 300 million years ago, about 60 million years before dinosaurs, so they've been here a long time. In 1753 Linnaeus, 'the father of modern taxonomy' described 9,000 species of plants in *Species Plantarum* and marked up the woody ones with the symbol of Saturn. Even by 2000 estimates of the number of tree species varied as widely as 45,000 to 100,000.

Does it matter how many there are? Well, yes! Trees provide us with food, timber and medicine and are major components of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on earth, particularly woodlands and forests. They support a multitude of other species. In Paris in 2015 the conservation of trees, halting deforestation and sustainable management of forests were recognised as playing a major role in addressing climate change. However, effective forest conservation requires species-specific action because individual tree species face threats that are unique to that species. Our *Little book of disappearing trees* describes threats faced by 40 species in their native ranges but which can be seen safely in ex-situ conservation in our arboretum.



Estimates of the number of seed plants are now at 370,495. Interestingly one of the challenges in counting their number is to define which of these are trees. It's been a problem for the Forestry Commission in applying tree felling regulations, with the English courts helpfully concluding that it is 'anything that might commonly be described as a tree!' My favourite definition is:

“ If it can be climbed, then it's a tree. ”

The Global Tree Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has used the definition: **a woody plant with usually a single stem growing to a height of at least two metres, or if multi-stemmed, then at least one vertical stem five centimetres in diameter at breast height.**



Brazil 8,715

Top ten countries with the most tree species, with four other selected countries



The UK's 85 native species is only achieved by splitting whitebeam into over 40 species.



Colombia 5,776



China 4,656



Ecuador 3,591



USA 1,432



Russia 224



UK 85

In 2017 the first global, authoritative list of tree species was published in an online database GlobalTreeSearch www.bgci.org/globaltree_search.php. Last time I checked it listed 60,065 tree species. The number continues to be refined as new discoveries are made and information analysed.

It's no surprise that the tropics have the most diverse flora, growing conditions are ideal and Brazil has 8,715 tree species, 4,333 of which are endemic (found only in Brazil). Life gets more difficult for trees closer to the poles as they have to be more specialised to survive harsh climates, also ice ages have wiped out ecosystems multiple times and flora has had to recolonise. Combined with being an island cut off shortly after the last ice age, Britain has a paltry 85 native species and this is only achieved by splitting whitebeam into over 40 species. Hence efforts such as Action Oak have come about to protect the few that we have.

The database is being used as the basis for the Global Tree Assessment which aims to make a complete assessment of the conservation status of all trees by 2020. Our recent dendrologist, Dan Crowley is leading this work for maples, and previous issues of this magazine have described his work in South East Asia – one part of the world where trees are less well recorded. Our colleague Dan Luscombe at Bedgebury National Pinetum is contributing to assessments for conifers.

Acknowledgement: This article is based on a paper by Beech et al (2017); GlobalTreeSearch: the first complete global database of tree species and country distributions; Journal of Sustainable Forestry. www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10549811.2017.1310049 One of the authors, Paul Smith, Director General of Botanic Gardens Conservation International, is part of our Arboreta Advisory Committee.



Indonesia 5,142



Mexico 3,364



Malaysia 4,993



Madagascar 3,234



Venezuela 4,656



France 126



Peru 4,439

Art at the Arboretum

By Susanna Bayliss, Interpretation Support Officer

Art is at the heart of Westonbirt. Founder Robert Holford planted trees to provide stunning vistas, using Victorian principles of landscaping that continue to inspire artists today.

Westonbirt inspires creativity; from groups of artists enjoying time outside to paint a Westonbirt scene to the individual, spotted in Silk Wood, playing the violin for their own enjoyment and those passing by. In the autumn, some visitors gather the fiery colours found on the floor to make leaf-art masterpieces. We want to harness this creativity to explore the beautiful tree collections through the eyes of artists.

Art provokes a reaction in us, whether we like it or not! It starts a discussion that can change how we feel and how we connect with the Arboretum. Those discussions could start with a negative reaction for some, after all we don't all like the same thing! But they could also plant the seed of a fresh idea; a new way of looking at the trees and surrounding environment.

“The Forestry Commission's Forest Art Works programme contains some diverse opportunities to explore; from digital and formal sculpture to art through play or promenade theatre.”

We have been developing a strategy that gives us a reason for artistic interpretation, through which we can commission art projects. Over the autumn and winter, we engaged with visitors, volunteers, staff and, of course, you, our members. We've also talked to other



organisations and art professionals to help us decide where Westonbirt might find its place within the arts scene. The Forestry Commission's **Forest Art Works** programme contains some diverse opportunities to explore; from digital and formal sculpture to art through play or promenade theatre.

The art produced here will be inspired by Westonbirt and sensitive to our own unique tree collection. The landscape and wonderful trees will still be centre stage, after all, what better art is there than nature itself?

Watch this space for more information on upcoming art at the Arboretum.



#ARBshow2019

The ARB Show

Friday 17th – Saturday 18th
May 2019

A celebration of the science of trees



Show Ales &
Good Food

New
Attractions
& Arenas

Demos &
Competitions

The Latest
Technologies

Unrivalled
Atmosphere

Principal sponsor of the
ARB Show for the 15th year

STIHL[®]



Download on the
App Store

Look out for the **ARB Show App** on the
Apple App Store, Google Play and trees.org.uk



GET IT ON
Google Play

Join us



www.trees.org.uk/The-ARB-Show



Our Coppice Shelter appeal

Please help us to protect a way of life at Westonbirt.

Coppicing is a traditional method of managing a woodland, cutting trees in areas known as 'coups' down to the stump to allow new shoots to grow so they can be harvested again in seven years – and so the cycle continues. Coppicing helps to maintain the landscape and create new habitats for woodland plants and animals.

Over the last few years, our coppicers have worked tirelessly to restore 45 acres of Silk Wood back into coups. They rely on these coups for their livelihood, producing hurdles, beanpoles, faggots, shingles, laths and charcoal, as well as teaching traditional forest management techniques.

At the moment, our coppicers struggle with a make-shift shelter that is no longer fit for purpose. We urgently need to provide a traditional, sustainably built shelter for our coppicers to work in and store their materials.

How can you help?

We need to raise **£38,000** to build a coppice shelter and a compost toilet. This will mean we can protect the future of our coppicers and their traditional skills for future generations.

Please help us to bring history to life by making a donation. Thank you.

Visit fowa.org.uk/coppice to donate.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Donation amount: _____

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

giftaid it

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

Centenary Glade

Celebrating 100 Years of Forestry

With the Forestry Commission celebrating its centenary year, Westonbirt's Curator, Mark Ballard plans to mark the occasion and shape the future.



▲ Trees planted in 1854–55 to create Jackson Avenue in the Old Arboretum.

The Forestry Commission

Created in the wake of the First World War, following the passing of the Forestry Act in 1919, the Forestry Commission is England's largest landowner.

Originally established to replenish the country's strategic timber reserve, it now leads world-class research and actively manages 250,000 hectares of forests to benefit people, nature and the economy, including Westonbirt. It's the Government's expert forestry advisor as well as working with other landowners to help protect, improve and expand England's forests.

“ We will mark this milestone by celebrating the vital contribution forests make to our wellbeing, economy and environment. ”

Throughout 2019 the Forestry Commission will celebrate 100 years of forestry with a programme of events, activities and projects taking place throughout England. These will celebrate the vital contribution forests make to our wellbeing, economy and environment. They will also look ahead to the next hundred years, at how trees will continue to play a critical role in underpinning the resilience of our environment, landscapes and economy into the future.

Centenary Glade

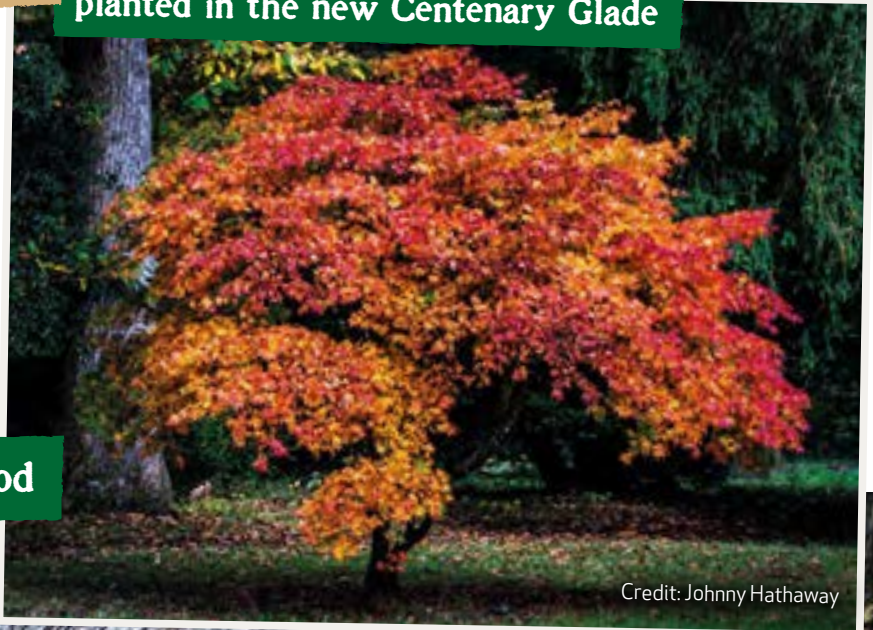
At Westonbirt, we have named a new glade in honour of this milestone. It can be found adjacent to Broad Drive in Silk Wood. This is an exciting project for us, as looking after a historic landscape, we don't get the opportunity to create something new on this scale very often.

The area in question is 1.3 hectares in size and was actually a rather derelict part of the Arboretum. It was home to several specimen plants that were all badly suppressed by encroaching scrub and vegetation. We carried out a thinning operation, which also included removing several over-mature clumps of Leyland cypress, freeing the remaining botanical specimens to reach their full potential in the process.

New Views

The immediate impact is now clear for all to see, and pleasingly the tree-scape here neatly mirrors the designed landscape on the opposite side of Broad Drive. The recently upgraded hard path in this part of Silk Wood has enhanced accessibility, and allows people to move more easily between the glade and the nearby 2,000 year old small-leaved lime and Maple Loop.

7 different species of *Acer* to be planted in the new Centenary Glade



Credit: Johnny Hathaway

Broad Drive in Silk Wood

will be the location of our new Centenary Glade





▲ **Forestry Commission took ownership and opened Westonbirt Arboretum to the public in 1956.**

New Plantings

In 2018, we added 56 young specimen plants to the glade. All came from our own propagation unit and almost all were grown from wild collected seed. This year and beyond we will take great care to gradually add more trees and shrubs to enhance the appearance further, all the while adhering to our much loved 'picturesque' landscape principles.

As you would no doubt expect, these new plantings come from collecting expeditions to far afield places, such as China, Japan, Italy and the USA. There is the usual mix of ornate deciduous plants, and plants providing that all important evergreen structure. Some specimens also have a strong conservation value, such as Baker cypress (*Cupressus bakeri*) and Cheng cypress (*Cupressus chengiana*) which are classified as 'vulnerable', or the 'near threatened' Nikko fir (*Abies homolepis*). The seven different species of maples (*Acer*) should make for some fantastic colour too, and especially with the addition of one of our favourite cultivars, *Acer* (Amoenum Group) 'Westonbirt Orange'.

“ This year and beyond we will take great care to gradually add more trees and shrubs to enhance the appearance further, all the while adhering to our much loved 'picturesque' landscape principles. ”

The Passing of Time

We are very pleased with the initial results and the space created, but we anticipate that the glade will be yet more aesthetically pleasing as plants establish with room to fully grow.

Considering part of the centenary programme is focused on looking ahead to the next 100 years, we feel that the name Centenary Glade is very fitting with a new lease of life in a previously neglected part of the Arboretum. As always, we are gardening on a grand scale!

Make sure you add the newly named Centenary Glade to your things to see on your next visit to the Arboretum.

The BIG Forest Find

Westonbirt's 2017 BioBlitz was a great success with over 800 different species of flora and fauna being recorded over the two-day event. This information enables us to determine key management species and assess the value to the wider ecosystem provided by the Arboretum.



To help celebrate 100 years of the Forestry Commission, the BioBlitz has gone national with the title 'The Big Forest Find'. Each Forest District across England will be holding open events, enabling observations of flora and fauna across the Public Forest Estate to be recorded, building an enormous picture of the wildlife and plants that make our forests their home.

The event at Westonbirt will be held over two days with a range of experts gathering data on Fri 31 May and Sat 1 June 2019. Visitors will be invited to join guided walks on the Saturday, taking in wildlife hotspots and learning all about bugs and beasts, and the native flora that can be found here.

Those with smart phones will be encouraged to record their observations using the free iNaturalist app. Don't worry if you can't tell the difference between a buff tail and a cuckoo bee, the app has useful tools to assist, and the experts will be on hand to help.



Before you come to the Arboretum download the iNaturalist app from the App Store or Google Play to get involved!





A landscape full of life

Longer, brighter, warmer days lie ahead. What better time to get enjoy the fresh air, bright colours, abundant wildlife and stunning landscapes of the Arboretum.



Spring and summer tree highlights

▲ Credit: Gina Mills

Discover some seasonal highlights to watch out for as you explore the Arboretum this spring and summer.

The next few months will see a rapid change in the Arboretum, the grand silhouettes of the trunks and intricate patterns of the bark that dominated the landscape throughout the winter months will soon be hidden by a riot of colour, hailing the return of spring and summer.

Though the crowds flock to Westonbirt to take in the beauty of the autumn colour, spring is perhaps an equally spectacular time of year. Our collection of flowering trees in the spring put on a vibrant show of colour, including pinks, reds, purples and whites, with flowers of every shape and size bursting into bloom throughout the springtime.

The show doesn't stop there, come summer a sense of peaceful tranquillity descends over the Arboretum, and the dappled shade offers a welcome respite from the heat of the sun. Though perhaps less colourful than other seasons, there is still plenty to explore around the site, with flowering trees continuing to bloom well into the summer, and rich summer smells drifting through the woodland.

The best way to take in the most sensational sights of the Arboretum is to head out on the seasonal trails (maps are available for free from the Welcome Building), but here are a few of our spring and summertime favourites to watch out for as you explore the Arboretum over the coming months...



Seasonal trail map

You can use this pull-out map to identify where each of the trees in the highlights article can be found in the Arboretum.

Each tree has a coloured 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 finding the tree easier. If you would like a copy of the full map, simply pop into the Welcome Building on your next visit.

Pull out map

● The coloured dots mark some of the spectacular trees worth seeking out on your next visit...



SILK WOOD

Waste Drive

Tree guide

Spring

- *Acer pseudoplatanus*
'Brilliantissimum'
- Chinese fringe tree,
(*Chionanthus retusus*)
- *Prunus* 'Tai-haku'
- *Magnolia sprengeri*
var. *sprengeri*
'Westonbirt Diva'

Summer

- Mock orange
(*Philadelphus* spp.)
- Red horse chestnut
'Briotii' (*Aesculus x*
carnea 'Briotii')
- Giant redwood
(*Sequoiadendron*
giganteum)

Chinese fringe tree (*Chionanthus retusus*)

Although the Chinese fringe tree is relatively easy to grow, it is not so easy to propagate! The seeds require a complicated treatment to break their built in dormancy.



0 100 200 300m



Mock orange (*Philadelphus* spp.)

As well as being a popular feature in gardens, mock orange flowers are often used in floristry and perfume manufacture.



Red horse chestnut 'Briotii' (*Aesculus x carnea* 'Briotii')

Look closely at the flowers of horse chestnuts and you'll see that individual flower markings vary from yellow to red in colour. These are nectar guides, which start yellow and then change colour once the flower has been pollinated, encouraging insects to only visit pollen rich flowers!

Acer pseudoplatanus
'Brilliantissimum'

The beautiful light red of the young leaves also has a practical purpose, and researchers now believe that red pigmentation could help to protect young leaves from harsh sunlight and attacks from insects.



Credit: Gina Mills

Magnolia sprengeri var. *sprengeri*
'Westonbirt Diva'

Magnolias are among the most ancient of flowering trees, and have evolved to attract beetle pollinators. Their large cup-shaped flowers provide a robust target for beetles and also enable several beetles to visit at the same time.



Credit: Gina Mills

Prunus 'Tai-haku'

With its magnificent clusters of white flowers set off by bronze-tinged new leaves, this is not to be missed – our specimen on Main Drive is a crowd-puller!



Spring highlights



Giant redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)

Though the specimen pictured might look huge, it is in fact still a baby. The largest living specimen has a trunk circumference of 31 metres!



● *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum'

Though red is a colour most commonly associated with autumn here at the Arboretum, flashes of scarlet and crimson are easy to spot as you wander the paths in springtime. Perhaps most attractive are the young leaves of the sycamore cultivar *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum', which blush a gentle shell pink in the spring before gradually turning green as spring fades into summer.

Red colouration in leaves is due to the presence of pigments known as anthocyanins. Though we are not certain why anthocyanins are present in leaves, scientists now believe that they could help to protect the young leaves from excessive sunlight and insects:

- Research has demonstrated that insects which feed on leaves are attracted to the colour green, so the red colour could be there to hide the young leaves.
- Some researchers believe that the red colour may undermine an insect's own camouflage, making it more obvious to predators.
- Or perhaps the colour red provides a visual signal to insects that the leaves contain defensive chemicals.

● Chinese fringe tree (*Chionanthus retusus*)

A casual glance at this species might give the impression that there has been a recent snowfall, but on closer inspection you'll see that the plant is covered in clusters of showy, fringe-like, white flowers.

It is this unusual appearance that gives the plant its name: *Chion*, meaning snow, and *Anthos*, meaning flower. This pretty tree is native to China, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan, and is more graceful than its cousin, the more straggly *Chionanthus virginicus*, (native to North America), which can also be seen at Westonbirt.

Both these trees belong to the olive family, and in summer bear small blue-black fruits. Our specimens were given to us by Howick Hall Gardens in 2010 and come from wild collected seed.

● ***Prunus* ‘Tai-haku’**

No collection of spring highlights would be complete without a mention of cherry trees, and this ancient cultivar has a particularly interesting history. Native to Japan, the tree was thought to have gone extinct in 1700, until it mysteriously turned up in a Sussex garden in 1923! Collingwood Ingram, a cherry expert, eventually identified it, raised grafts, and today every specimen in the world is derived from this single plant!

There are several hundred other cherry cultivars, and flowers of different varieties can have from five to over a hundred petals. Most buds are fairly dark, but the flowers become paler as the petals expand and mature. Weather conditions can also affect flower colour.

● ***Magnolia sprengeri* var. *sprengeri* ‘Westonbirt Diva’**

There are few more arresting sights at the Arboretum than our resident diva in springtime! For many years, this champion magnolia was simply known as *Magnolia sprengeri* ‘Diva’. The original *Magnolia sprengeri* ‘Diva’ grew at Caerhays in Cornwall, the only pink flowered plant (var. *sprengeri*) raised from a batch of seed collected by Ernest Wilson; all other seedlings from this collection turned out to be white (var. *elongata*). In 2014, our tree was renamed to take into account that it was grown from a seedling of the original Caerhays tree, rather than a cutting. This means that our tree does not have the same genetic make-up as the Caerhays tree, and so cannot share the same cultivar name.

Summer highlights

● **Mock orange (*Philadelphus* spp.)**

Follow your nose down Willesley Drive this summer and sniff out the sweet scent of mock orange. This group contains around 60 different species, native to North and Central America, Asia and south-east Europe, and belongs to the hydrangea family (*Hydrangeaceae*). Mock orange thrives in most soil types and flowers best in the full sun; the best time to see them is in June and July.

● ***Aesculus x carnea* ‘Briotii’**

You can't miss the flowers of horse chestnut trees in early summer, thanks to their magnificent candle-like clusters. This particular species is the red horse chestnut variety *Aesculus x carnea* ‘Briotii’. First raised in the early nineteenth century, the red horse chestnut is a hybrid between red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) and the common horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*).

● **Giant redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)**

It's not just flowers that are worthy of further examination over the summer... take a closer look at giant redwoods and you'll discover the bark has a spongy texture. Wildfires are a common occurrence across its native range in California, and this spongy bark makes the tree fire proof! In fact the tree actually needs wildfires to prosper; fires clear the ground of competing plants, and the rising heat opens the cones, which release thousands of tiny seeds.

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

A gift for future generations

Westonbirt Arboretum is a special place in so many ways. It protects our world class tree collection, is home to an abundance of wildlife, helps to keep lots of traditional crafts alive and, of course, is a source of so much enjoyment for people of all ages.

We are immensely proud of the incredible things the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum have achieved with your support, but as you know, there is always so much more to do.

As a charity, the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum relies entirely on the income we receive from our members and supporters.



“ The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum is a charity that means a great deal to me. I've always been a huge supporter of their work helping to conserve this precious environment and its trees...Westonbirt is definitely top of my list for leaving a gift in my Will. **”**

Margaret Headen, Friend and volunteer

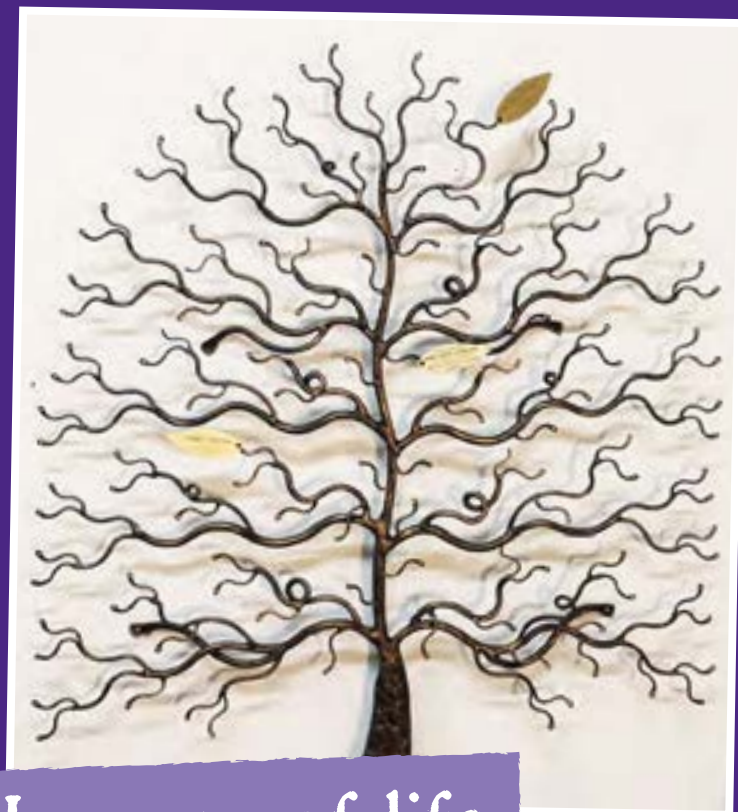
Gifts in Wills that have been left to the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum are an essential part of our income, helping us to run community schemes, to improve facilities for visitors on site, recognise new projects such as Westonbirt Woodworks and to ensure the Arboretum continues to be accessible to as many people as possible.

A gift in your Will helps us to keep improving facilities, whilst protecting this unique and important tree collection for generations to come. Your gift can be used by our charity to give support where we feel the need is greatest or you can choose to support a specific area of work, such as propagation or community outreach.

If you would like to talk through leaving a gift in your Will, or if you have any questions, please contact us on 0300 067 3303 or email legacy@fowa.org.uk

Find out more

You can find out more at fowa.org.uk/legacy where you can view or download our legacy brochure.



Leaves of life

There are special people and moments in our lives that we want to remember, whether it's a birthday, wedding or special event, remembering a loved one or sharing a special memory.

Leaves of life are a beautiful and meaningful way to remember someone special. You can inscribe your personal message on an attractive leaf and display it on one of our three elegantly sculptured metal trees displayed in the Great Oak Hall at the Arboretum.

A personalised leaf including inscription costs £280 and will be displayed on the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum tree sculptures for a minimum of 10 years or the lifetime of the sculpture. All proceeds will go towards the conservation of Westonbirt Arboretum.

For more information, call the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum on 0300 067 3303 or visit fowa.org.uk/leaves-of-life

My memories of Westonbirt

The Arboretum holds a special place in many people's hearts. It means different things to different people but the magic of the trees never fails to stir the heart. We thought it would be fun to bring you some of our Friends' favourite memories from Westonbirt.

At the start of FOWA

I first visited Westonbirt in the 1950's when I was a student at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, and have been a regular visitor ever since.

My interest in trees was inspired by my tutor Cyril Hart and later by Alan Mitchell. Later on, I helped John Workman to start 'The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum' and after a year we met to discuss whether it was worth going on with only about 130 members.

32,000 members now have a lot to thank John for and so too does the Forestry Commission for the enormous help that the Friends give in both financial and voluntary support.

Sir Henry Elwes

Running free

My favourite memories of visiting the Arboretum are of bringing our grandchildren and watching them enjoy the experience of being able to run free and safely.

One of the children is deaf and at Westonbirt it doesn't matter he can enjoy himself just like the others.

Ann Cresswell

A happy visit at 96 years old

One of my special memories of Westonbirt is of taking my father there aged 96 in August 2006. He was then living at Ilsom House Care Home in Tetbury.

We used the double mobility scooter that you had at that time. My father had macular degeneration and his vision was poor. As we were driving round the Old Arboretum he could see the trees. He said, "How tall the trees are, I didn't think I'd be able to see them!"

He really enjoyed the visit. This is a really special memory for me as he died in October the same year.

Jane Jarrett

A day full of pictures

I am going back to 14 October 2009 when we caught the autumn colour at its peak, the light was perfect and I managed to take over 200 photographs, while my husband put together a stunning video of the day.

What prompted me to look back this far though, was a small watercolour sketch I managed to paint of the Silk Wood barn.

Sonia Legget



Fond memories

Of the very many visits, one stands out.

Just after my mother died we had a family walk in the Silk Wood with grandchildren and dogs in her memory. The perfect place.

Mrs E Stevens

Boxing hares

The first time I saw some hares was at Westonbirt in a field.

Of course, I have seen several since that time but to see them boxing was a truly memorable experience. It is always a great pleasure to come to Westonbirt Arboretum - thanks.

Mrs M Marson

Days full of adventure

- Picnics with the family on Palmer Ride, surrounded by wild flowers.
- Picnic at dusk on a warm Summer's evening. No sounds but bird song.
- Finding 17 species of butterfly in a two hour walk with the Gloucestershire butterfly recorder.

Martin and Jane Green

A tree in memory

My husband and I walked our Cocker Spaniel 'Amber' every week at the Arboretum.

When my husband, Bill, died the family still walked in the Arboretum - we always stop at the tree in his memory.

Mrs Y Binks

Thank you to everyone who shared a memory with us. If you'd like to share yours, we'd love to hear from you, email magazine@fowa.org.uk

FAMILY FUN

Perfect partners!

In the UK there are at least 1,500 species of insect pollinators including bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and hoverflies.

Beetles are attracted to magnolias. Magnolias were flowering 95 million years ago, long before bees existed, so the flower had to attract a different kind of pollinator!

Butterflies have great vision so are attracted to colourful flowers but their sense of smell isn't as strong. They taste with their feet!

Moths are attracted to white flowers that open at night and are easier to see. These flowers produce more nectar and have a stronger scent at night to attract the night shift pollinators.

Bumblebees have hairy bodies that help them collect and carry pollen from plants.

Honey bees collect and eat pollen. They also collect nectar that is used to make honey, which we harvest and eat.

Hoverflies visit flowers to feed on nectar and pollen for energy.

Pollinator pairs

You can make your own games of pairs.

Why not test your memory and learn about pollinators at the same time! Here's what to do:

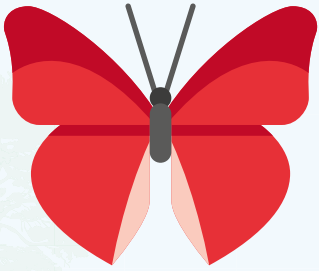
You will need some scissors, a small pot of glue and some cardboard.

- 1 With adult supervision, cut out the insects pictures as one block.
- 2 Now glue this to some cardboard.
- 3 Finally cut out the individual squares.
- 4 Do this for all 12 cards and allow them to dry – you're now ready to play!

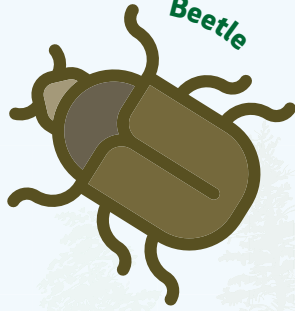
Playing pollinator pairs is easy. Simply turn all the cards down so you can't see the pollinators. You then take it in turns to turn over two cards each. If they match you get to keep the pair and have another go. If the pair of pollinators don't match then turn them back over, and it's the next players go. The winner is the person who collects the most pairs.



Butterfly



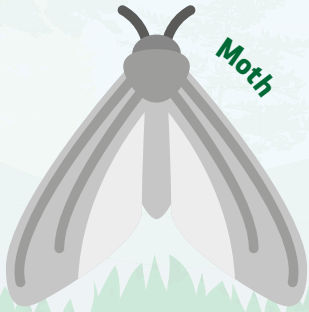
Beetle



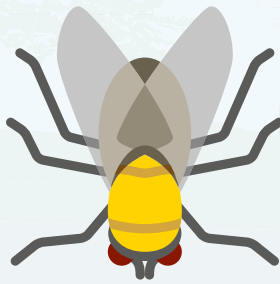
Bumblebee



Moth



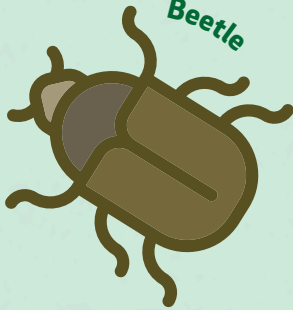
Hoverfly



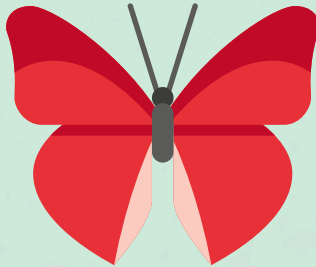
Honey Bee



Beetle



Butterfly



Hoverfly



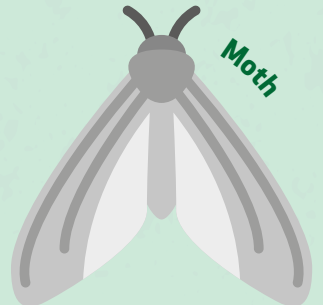
Honey Bee



Bumblebee



Moth



The Bee's Knees!

One of the most important things bees do is pollinate flowers.

Bees pollinate woodland flowers, a large amount of plants that we eat such as fruits and vegetables and the food for farm animals that we then eat. If these pollinators die out, a lot of the food on your table would become harder to grow and more expensive.

The honey factory

Honey bees collect and eat pollen; it is high in protein and fat. They also collect nectar from flowers which they use to produce honey. Honey is stored in honeycombs made from wax. When bees collect the nectar, they store it in their honey stomach and carry it back to the hive. They carry around 40 milligrams of nectar at a time.

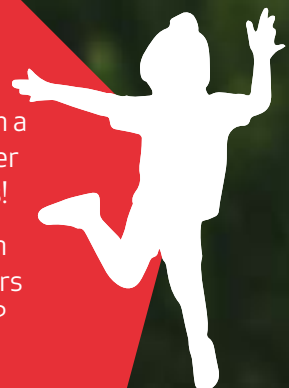
Back at the hive, they pass the nectar to the worker bees who turn the nectar to honey by evaporating the water from it. This leaves thick, sticky and sweet honey which can differ in flavour and colour depending on the flowers the bees visited for nectar.



Did you know?

Honey bee workers perform a waggle dance to teach other workers where the food is!

Can you make up your own waggle dance to show others where to find the flowers?



Horse chestnut flowers

Red/pink pollinated flower

Yellow means this flower has not been pollinated yet

Credit: Hannah Griffiths

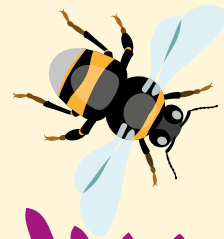


Credit: Hannah Griffiths

Bumblebees

Bumblebees are great pollinators. Their hairy bodies help them collect and carry pollen from plants. The rough texture of pollen (seen here under the microscope) helps it stick to the bee. The hairs on their bodies are also forked at the tip, which gathers up the pollen.

Bumblebees can also buzz pollinate! Some flowers have evolved to only release the pollen from the stamens when bumblebees visit and vibrate their wings to make a high pitch buzz. This releases the pollen and it lands on the bee. Blueberries and tomatoes are some of the plants pollinated in this way. Honeybees cannot do this.



There are some smart flowers out there!

Pollinators and plants have evolved together so that different flowers attract certain insects to ensure successful pollination.

Horse chestnut flowers are yellow when they open up and turn red/pink once they have been pollinated. At the same time they stop producing nectar. This encourages bees to visit the unpollinated flowers as they do not see red easily. The flower is less attractive to them without nectar. This helps ensure that pollination of the horse chestnut flower is more productive.

Can you design a flower for pollinators to visit?

What special features will it have and who will be visiting your flowers?



The Great Oak Hall

Mixing business with pleasure

Walking meetings are proven to increase staff collaboration, morale, creativity and productivity, so what better place to come for your business seminars and workshops than the Great Oak Hall?

Hold an inspiring meeting, seminar or conference in this medieval-style, airy venue and break out into the outdoor space of the Arboretum.

“ A beautiful, holistic environment with great customer support and a lovely place to be both in and out of doors. ”

K Briggs, Leadership and People Development Coordinator

“ Westonbirt was such a lovely place to get away and enjoy the scenery, and avoid the distraction of the office. ”

Participant

Hire the Great Oak Hall

From £315

Your hire includes:

- Use of auditorium (11m x 7m) and foyer
- 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



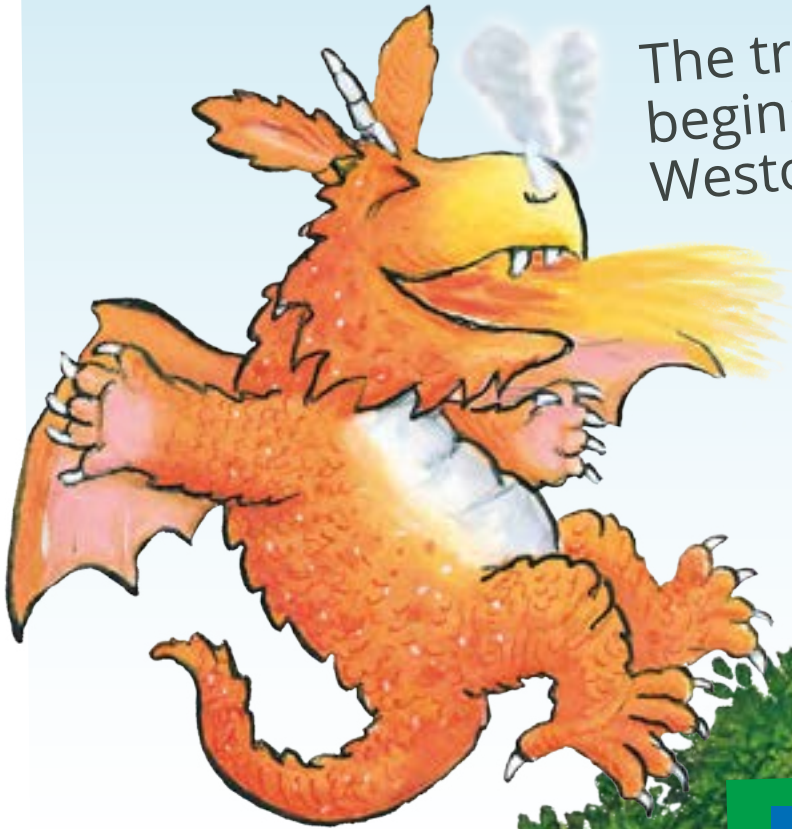
ZOG™
Activity Trail



Join in the fun!

from January 2019

The trail runs until the
beginning of June at
Westonbirt Arboretum



Don't forget
Pick up your Zog
Activity Pack
before you start.

 Find us on Facebook,
search Forestry England

Sign up to hear more...

forestryengland.uk/zog





Shaping a landscape for centuries to come

From working as a tree surgeon, Andy Bryce has worked his way up to become an experienced Arboriculturist. He has been part of the Tree Team at Westonbirt for over seven years and in August last year he was appointed Collections Manager. We took a bit of time to catch up with Andy and find out more about his job and his interest in trees.

Andy, how did you get to where you are today?

Years of hard work if I'm honest. I knew I wanted to make a career out of trees and initially I thought tree surgery was the way. I soon discovered that wasn't quite the path I was hoping for, so I focussed on gaining professional qualifications and was successful in joining the Tree Team at Westonbirt, I was so pleased to get the job. Even then I knew I wanted to help manage this world class tree collection and I pushed my learning further to give me the knowledge to get where I am now.

Tell us a bit about your job

My job is to support our Curator, Mark Ballard, to implement our strategy within the Arboretum. Planning, planting, care and maintenance are all in the mix. There's currently just four staff in the Tree Team looking after a 600 acre site. We don't contract any work out. We have a deep understanding of the collection and pride ourselves on managing every aspect of the Arboretum from planting to tree removal.

“ I love my work. I think one of the most exciting things is helping to shape this famous landscape. ”

How do you manage new plantings?

About three quarters of the new plantings are from wild seed that's been grown here having been collected around the world. Our Propagator, Penny Jones, brings on the young saplings over three or four years before they are ready for the team to plant out. Correct planting is vital to the success of a tree and we also give them a good portion of our own mulch, which reduces weed growth, helps the soil retain water and adds organic matter into the soil. We check on them annually until they have become established but other than doing a little bit of formative pruning to get rid of any imperfections, the trees are left to express themselves, to decide what they're going to do. Every planting is part of the long-term landscaping plan, part of creating a landscape that paints a picture and creates an experience for visitors.



Inspecting *Quercus garryana* seed by the Klamath River in Oregon.

Collecting *Larix occidentalis* western larch in Wenatchee National Forest, Washington State. With colleagues from The US Forest Service and Harcourt Arboretum, Oxford.



It's a massive acreage to manage, what takes up most of your time?

Quite a big part of my time is taken up managing the remedial cycle. The Arboretum is split into 60 sections managed within a rotation. Initially I will look at a section and decide what we want to achieve here, what is the importance of each plant and how can we improve the landscape. This includes mulching, pruning, and sometimes removing trees. We have some excellent machinery to help us do our work. It makes you realise the incredible impact machinery has and how many more people they needed before mechanisation! There's grass to cut, wild grassland habitats to manage, storm damage to clear up and jobs like cutting back dogwood and willows to promote colourful new growth.

What do you find most satisfying about your work?

I love my work. I think one of the most exciting things is helping to shape this famous landscape. We are the current custodians and what we do shapes the look and layout for hundreds of years. I like to think I'm one of the painters in this incredible landscape picture that stretches across the centuries.

Completing the Westonbirt cycle of life

Providing the facilities to mill and work with our own wood, teach people traditional skills and provide a facility that completes the cycle of a tree's life at Westonbirt is becoming a reality with the new Woodworks.

As work at Westonbirt Woodworks begins, we caught up with Chloe Gilbert from the Forestry Commission team and Paul Hayden who will be running the new facility.

Introducing Westonbirt Woodworks

It's an impressive project Chloe, you must be looking forward to the opening?

Yes, it's a really exciting project. It rounds the life cycle of a tree at Westonbirt, provides a wonderful resource for traditional crafts and demonstrates the incredible properties of different woods. It'll be great to get everything up and running.

How has the money been raised to achieve all this?

It's been quite a journey! But we've been so well supported. Funds have included contributions from individuals, grants and, of course, the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum, who contributed a significant amount of match funding. I think we've all been very touched by the support people have shown.



It's a pretty big area, how are you planning to use the space?

The main building was originally a cattle barn, yard and part of the original Victorian estate. It's been used for all sorts of things over the years including a plant centre. The restoration of the barn and the outbuildings will provide an area where Paul and his team can hold workshops and demonstrations of traditional crafts. There are lovely quirky wooden workshops with lathes and tools, a new drying store for milled timber and the saw mill shelter which is built from our own FSC green oak, housing our new saw mill. It'll be an exciting working environment.

So, you'll be up and running for people to book courses and buy products this summer?

Yes, that's the plan. Paul's courses will start from 29 April 2019 whilst the finishing touches to the building works may still be underway. Once open, visitors can meet Paul, buy products, sign up to courses and enjoy demonstrations. We're looking to attract all sorts of people, those looking for a new hobby, advancing existing skills or just interested in seeing what we do.



Credit: Alison Cobb



It's a dream come true

Paul Hayden is the driving force behind the development of Westonbirt Woodworks. He has been making Windsor chairs for over 30 years. For almost twenty of those years he has been teaching chair-making at Westonbirt. Paul has helped to shape a vision for a facility within Westonbirt that completes the life cycle of a tree – from the collection of seed, through germination and planting to maturity, felling, milling and a new lease of life as furniture and household items.

Paul is excited about the opportunities presented by Westonbirt Woodworks. "It's a great facility," he says. "It completes a natural cycle for Westonbirt timber and provides a dedicated area for teaching, making and selling woodwork. It's somewhere we can explore lots of different crafts, not just woodwork.



▲ Credit: Brian Martin

Why not teach food smoking using the charcoal made in the new Exeter Retort kiln in Silk Wood? And what about Leatherwork and Blacksmithing? It should be possible to make an axe or a knife, fit a handle and then make the leather sheath. The opportunities are endless. We have rare trees at the Arboretum. When the time comes to fell them they provide a diversity of timber that we want to make available to crafts-people. We will be able to mill, season, and sell timber, developing the work done by some of the Friends in years gone by and we will have a workshop where visitors will be able to see us working and a shop where both the timber and the things we make can be bought by visitors. What more could we ask?"

Paul's Windsor Chair making course revives some of the oldest traditions of chair making. He has already taught more than 2,000 people at Westonbirt. Paul explains, "We like to teach groups of ten which keeps things sociable. I have five craftspeople who teach with me. The course covers turning, steam bending, kiln drying, seat carving and using traditional tools and techniques to make a Windsor Chair."

“ Westonbirt Woodworks is an incredible project with a high level of trust required from everyone involved. I'm impressed by the teamwork, unity and drive everyone has shown, and of course the kindness and donations that have made it possible to buy a mill and develop the yard. For me, and I think for all of us, it's a dream come true. ”

Keep an eye on forestryengland.uk/westonbirt and social media for news of exciting courses and demonstrations scheduled for our new Woodworks!

Many ways to wellbeing in the woods

By Karen Price, Community Officer

Spending time in the great outdoors can be beneficial for our physical and mental health. Here are some of the initiatives run by our Community Team to help people enjoy the Arboretum and benefit from a sense of physical and mental wellbeing.

Nurtured by Nature and Westonbirt Wellbeing

These are programmes designed to engage adults in a series of creative, sensory and practical conservation activities that promote mental health and a sense of wellbeing.

Wild Westonbirt*

Our Wild Westonbirt programme is designed for young people, and groups with additional needs. The course builds confidence and self-esteem through a series of interesting activities, such as fire lighting, tool use and green woodworking.



Many of our programmes include traditional woodland management, helping to restore some of the semi ancient coppice woodland of Silk Wood and keeping valuable skills alive!

“ Westonbirt has given me confidence in working with others... now I can speak without mumbling. ”
Young person



Branching Out

For local groups that may have difficulty visiting the Arboretum, such as care homes and dementia groups, we have developed Branching Out, an outreach programme, including a series of sensory activities to be completed away from the Arboretum, followed by a visit to Westonbirt.

“ The experience was excellent for all the service users and a very positive experience for those ‘living in the moment’ with dementia. ”
Group Leader

Our community team can offer the above programmes, free of charge, for harder to reach adult and youth groups based within a 10 mile radius of Westonbirt.

For further information on our community programmes, please contact Karen Price, Community Coordinator karen.price@forestryengland.uk or visit forestryengland.uk/westonbirt

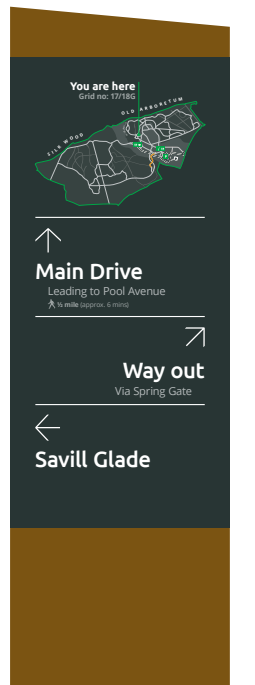
*Wild Westonbirt' is also the name of our youth forum. The shingle sculpture by Teds Fright was one of their projects.

Changing signs

Thanks to funding from the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum, plans are now underway to renew all signage on-site over the next couple of years.

Feedback from a range of visitors and members has been taken on-board to include the provision of additional signage at path junctions and the inclusion of 'you are here' maps on the signs.

You should start seeing the first phase of the new signs installed by spring 2019.



Magazine wrappers

We are sometimes asked why we don't send this magazine in compostable wrapping.

We have looked into the additional costs associated with this, which are considerable. As a charity, we have instead taken the decision to contribute these costs towards the conservation of the Arboretum. In turn we ask that you recycle the wrapper along with carrier bags at your nearer large supermarket and by some local kerbside collections.



A huge thank you to Jacqueline

Jacqueline Dalton has finally hung up her hat in exchange for her walking boots after almost 20 years in charge of the Friends charity.

Jacqueline joined us in 1999 and immediately got to work with the help of a wonderful team of volunteers. From the early beginnings in her portacabin, full of the loveliest volunteers, she has given so much in so many ways. Jacqueline says she has always been in awe of the incredible things our volunteers achieve.

Jacqueline said, "So much has been achieved by sheer hard graft – something to be proud of. I hope that everyone involved here feels that beat of the heart of being part of something extraordinary – our Westonbirt – our woods!"

Speaking on behalf of all her colleagues, Bev Starkings, Membership Officer said, "Jacqueline has always been the most supportive of managers and we will miss her a great deal. She has been the main stay of the

organisation, always in control and always knowledgeable. Her snow dance is something to behold and while everyone else is happy just to watch the storms, she will be out there getting the full effect, squealing with joy. The Great Oak Hall and Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum will be very different without her."



Stephen Segar, Former Chairman of the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum, added his thanks saying, "Jacqueline was the face of the charity; always cheerful, positive and highly organised. She has a wonderful way with people. I particularly appreciated her support and guidance during my tenure as a trustee and Chairman. Her knowledge of both the charity and the Arboretum is legendary – she will be sorely missed."

We will all miss you – thank you Jacqueline!

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

How do you prefer to hear from us?

We realise that our Friends may prefer to receive news and information from us in specific ways.

We currently communicate through our printed magazine, website blogs, monthly eNews, and through social media on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Please take a moment to find out a little more about these options and decide what works best for you.

Opt-into eNews

This is the best way to keep in touch with our news on a monthly basis. If you would like to receive the eNews simply email us at membership@fowa.org.uk to provide your consent.

Instagram

We love seeing photos of your adventures here at Westonbirt Arboretum! Share your days out on Instagram using #friendsofwestonbirt, post your doggy instasnaps using #westonbirtwalkies and @friendsofwestonbirt

Facebook



Read our latest blog posts by following us at www.facebook.com/friendsofwestonbirt

Twitter



Keep up to date with the latest membership benefits on Twitter @WestonbirtFOWA

Opt-out of print


Primary members receive a printed copy of the magazine twice a year. We ensure that our magazine news is included in our eNews as well as on our website, so if you decide to opt out of print you can stay informed via eNews. Opting out also helps to save us costs on printing and postage. To opt out simply email us at membership@fowa.org.uk

 It's the best place to walk my dogs, it's a secure environment, always bump into the friendliest of people and forever finding a new path to go down. On top of that I can get a cuppa and something to eat at the end of the walk and dogs get a pot of ice cream! 

Vanessa Roberts on Facebook


 We just wanted to say how well organised and outdoor friendly the Arboretum was today. We are both friends and have been visiting for a couple of years. Although there were a lot of cars it wasn't crowded. There were lots of eating places and toilets if required. We absolutely love it. Keep up the great work. 

Liz & Tony Wall via email

 Bailey the spotty dog loves exploring amongst the leaves at the Arboretum.

@baileythejrt3 on Instagram



 Woody and Wilma enjoying a walk a long the STIHL Treetop Walkway.

@thecotswoldspaniels on Instagram

Keep sharing your snaps with us using #friendsofwestonbirt

Learning with Nature sessions double!

Our Forest School has doubled the number of Learning with Nature sessions due to popular demand.

Learning with Nature, the Forestry Commission's outdoor learning partner, will now be providing four forest school sessions each week, during the school terms, on Thursdays and Fridays starting from the 31st January 2019.

Sessions run from 10.15 – 11.45am or 12.30 – 2pm and are for children aged 2 up to 5 years. Each week, there is a great theme, with a camp fire at the end of each half term.



Find out more about Tots & Twigs Forest School at forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/events

All your Arboretum expertise online

Have you ever wondered where you could find a particular tree in the Arboretum? Where to find the Holford pines? Or even where in the Arboretum you are in relation to the tree you're looking for?

Well, if you have, you'll be delighted to learn it's all online at westonbirt.arboretumexplorer.org and works on PCs tablets and mobiles.

Arboretum Explorer features include:

- All 15,000 specimen trees at Westonbirt, their tree number, taxonomic details and location.
- An accurate map of the Arboretum pinpointing your location and the tree you're looking for.
- Over 1,000 high quality images of our specimen trees with details of buds, flowers, berries and leaves.

You don't need to be an expert, if you don't know exactly what you're looking for simply enter partial names,

for example you can search for 'tulip tree' and Arboretum Explorer will find a selection of relevant tree names, click one to see images and locate them on the map.

If you don't have access to the Internet don't worry, Arboretum Explorer is available to use in our Welcome Building where one of our fantastic volunteers will be happy to help you.

To use this incredible new service simply visit: westonbirt.arboretumexplorer.org



Why not take a look before your next trip to Westonbirt and see what you can find?

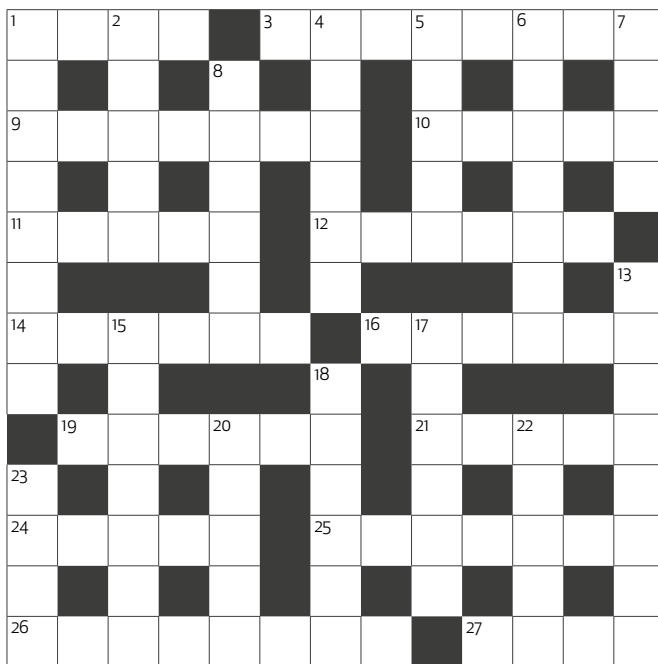
Please carry your card

Just a friendly reminder that you are required to show your valid membership card every time you enter Westonbirt Arboretum free of charge.

If you are unable to show a valid card when visiting the Arboretum, you will be required to pay a non-refundable admission fee to enter. If you have lost your card or require a replacement, please contact the Membership Team between Monday to Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm 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. We ask that you give us a minimum of 24 hours' notice ahead of visiting to make these arrangements.



Crossword



Down

- 1 If this is high, silver birch may only have rhododendrons for company. (8)
- 2 Type of heather found in some woods and in American parks. (5)
- 4 Of a leaf, wrinkled or corrugated. (6)
- 5 Tissue moving moisture from tree roots to leaves – seen in waxy lemon trees. (5)
- 6 Love-in-the-mist – could cook. (7)
- 7 In botany a stiff hair or bristle found in some russet apples. (4)
- 8 Tree up to 40m. See illustration. (6)
- 13 Country in which you may see Durian and Rambutan trees. (8)
- 15 Any soft bodied creature which includes slugs and snails. (7)
- 17 A good season in which to visit Algerquin Park – or Westonbirt. (6)
- 18 A tissue in trees which transports sugars from the leaves – alternatively spy hole of elm. (6)
- 20 A source of manila hemp. (5)
- 22 Swamp loving tree – named after a water nymph. (5)
- 23 Nipa pine leaves used for thatching in Malaysia also found in Matapan. (4)

Across

- 1 Westonbirt tree, found in a cerise shade in autumn. (4)
- 3 Tree found to be suffering 'dieback' in Poland in 2012. (8)
- 9 Wisteria or Lonicera may be so described. (7)
- 10 "... as leaf on Lindon tree" JRR Tolkien. (5)
- 11 Long path through the woods – could be bit of a record! (5)
- 12 Evergreen that could sweep the floor at the butchers – upstairs! (6)
- 14 Fruit tree with varieties; Dittisham, Farleigh and Godshill. (6)
- 16 Fruit tree, fruit once required to be 'free of abnormal curvature'. (6)
- 19 Prune tree branches to form overhead hedge – or chapel. (6)
- 21 Bean seed of *Dipteryx odorata*, seen back in a knot garden. (5)
- 24 Conifer, a good alternative to Leylandii, noticeable scent. (5)
- 25 Process which may aid sap movement in trees – even for some on soils. (7)
- 26 Camparis if stirred may form this tree with alternate pinnate leaves. (8)
- 27 New Zealand r=tree, red flowers, hardwood, *Metrosideros robusta*. (4)

Please email completed crosswords to magazine@fowa.org.uk or post to **Magazine, FOWA, Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury, Glos GL8 8QS** and we'll publish your names in the next edition!

Agenda for 33rd Annual General Meeting

**JOIN US Wednesday 22nd May 2019
at 6.00pm**

Prior to the AGM, we will be running an exclusive Members' Guided Walk followed by Danish pastries and tea. Meet at the Great Oak Hall at 4.00pm.

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Minutes** of the 32nd Annual General Meeting to be received and adopted
- 3 Matters Arising** from the above Minutes
- 4 2018 Review of the Charity** and Future Plans
- 5 2018 Report and Accounts**
Receive Report and Accounts
Election of Auditors of Friends' Accounts
- 6 Election to the Board**
Trustees seeking election
In accordance with the Articles of Association; J Hammond, M Headen and M Potter are standing down following the AGM
Invite Continuation in Office
President – Christopher Brickell CBE
Vice Presidents – Roger Busby CBE and Peregrine Pollen
- 7 2018 Review of the Arboretum**

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 CEO to obtain a form. Please email ceo@fowa.org.uk

Minutes and Accounts

Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting are available at fowa.org.uk/AGM or at the AGM. 2018 draft Accounts will be available at the AGM.

Issued by the Trustees of the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum – January 2019.

5 reasons

to attend the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum AGM

Being a member of the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum charity is not only about enjoying the beautiful setting and helping to conserve and promote this world renowned tree collection. Through our annual AGM, members also have the chance to participate in running the charity itself, ensuring that our income is spent appropriately and our Board is held to account.

1. Understand where your money is going

If you've ever wondered what happens with your membership payment, the AGM gives you a chance to understand exactly where every penny goes. You'll be provided with our financial accounts for 2018, updated on key projects and given the chance to query decisions that have been made throughout the year.

2. Participate in the appointment of Trustees to the Board

All charities are overseen by a Board of voluntary Trustees who make decisions about the charity's strategic direction and ensure its good governance. At the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum, our Trustees are usually appointed by an election held at the AGM, which gives you the chance to ensure that the right people are on the Board and making these decisions.

3. Meet other Members, Trustees and Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum staff and enjoy an exclusive guided walk

Attending the AGM is not just a formal meeting – it's also a chance to chat, have a cuppa and get to know the people behind the Friends charity. This year we are also offering the chance to join us for an exclusive Members' Guided Walk at 4.00pm followed by Danish pastries and tea before the AGM starts at 6.00pm.

4. Learn about life at the Arboretum as a whole

Andrew Smith, the Arboretum Director, will also give an update so you can hear about what's been going on across the Arboretum as a whole.

5. Know where we're going in the future

As well as reviewing the past, our AGM also sets out our plans for the future – as a charity as well as at the Arboretum. In 2019, we will be setting out our Forestry Commission/Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum Joint Strategy for Westonbirt Arboretum, which we would love to share with you, our Friends.

We all look forward to seeing you there!

Election and retirement from the board

'Following an open recruitment and formal interview process, we will be recommending new Trustees to join our Board to provide additional experience and expertise to the charity in line with our objectives as we look to replace some long serving Trustees that are retiring by rotation. We would like to thank John Hammond, Margaret Headen and Malcolm Potter for their outstanding service to the charity as they say goodbye at the AGM.'

Re-election to the Board

Mike Howarth will be coming to the end of his first three year term and is standing for re-election to the Board.



Mike Howarth

A large part of my career has been spent in academia, including research in economic modelling, course/programme development, management, and quality inspection. I have also been involved for 10 years in parish/town council work, and more recently served as an elected Executive Member of my local District Council.

I have been a volunteer at Westonbirt for the last six years, including as a Welcome Desk Volunteer, as a Guide (an all-consuming role!), and in the Outside Talks team. I was elected as a Trustee to the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum Board in 2016 and would like to continue with this role.

I am passionate about trees, and I am particularly keen to see further development of science and learning at Westonbirt, so that better use is made of our wonderful tree collection. This will also serve to enhance the national and international standing of the Arboretum.

**CALLING ALL
WESTONBIRT
10K RUNNERS!**

the friends
of Westonbirt
Arboretum
Registered Charity 293190



Westonbirt
10K

Run for the trees!

7pm, Thursday 09 May 2019

If you have already registered for the Westonbirt 10K in May then NOW is the time to **SIGN UP** to start fundraising and support conservation at Westonbirt Arboretum!

Raise **£50** and get early bird entry to the Westonbirt 10K 2020

Raise **£90** and get early bird entry for next year and an exclusive Westonbirt 10K T-Shirt

Sign up to fundraise at fowa.org.uk/10k

Please note that you must book your place on the 10K prior to signing up to fundraise.

Westonbirt
The National
Arboretum

 **Forestry Commission**
England

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



Hidden gems

Some of our favourite off the beaten track spots for spring and summer

Take the road less travelled this spring and summer and enjoy some of the Arboretum's best kept secrets. Here are a few of our recommendations for areas that are away from the usual paths.

Sand Earth

Head off the main track of Willesley Drive as you enter Silk Wood and enjoy a grassy pathway with magnolias and rhododendrons scattered along the way – perfect for anyone looking to catch some of the best sights and colours of spring!

Morley Ride

Turn left of Mitchell Drive in the Old Arboretum and you'll discover a grassy ride, that's perfect for summertime. Away from the main pathways this area is a quiet spot where you can wander along, enjoying the dappled light filtering through the trees and the majestic shapes of the grand firs, giant redwoods, Scots pine and other giants soaring above you.

Lime Avenue

No summer trip to Westonbirt would be complete without a visit to Lime Avenue. While most people simply look down the trees as they pass by on the main pathway, we recommend taking the time to head off the path and walk down the rows of trees. Close your eyes and enjoy the gentle hum of the bees flitting around in the trees above, and inhale the sweet smell of the lime trees.



Want to find out more about some of the Arboretum's hidden gems? Head out on a guided walk with one of our knowledgeable volunteer guides.

Discover some of Westonbirt's best kept secrets. (Everyday at 11am and an additional 2pm walk on weekends.)



Photo-Synthesis memories project

By Susanna Bayliss, Interpretation Support Officer

Does Westonbirt hold a special place in your heart? As part of the Forestry Commission's Centenary, we need your help to celebrate the Arboretum's human story, by charting its social history. Please join Westonbirt's story by sending in photos that conjure fond memories of you, your friends and family at the Arboretum.

A selection of these photos, and the related story, will be chosen for display on our summer seasonal trail, and they will all form part of a wonderful digital legacy online.

The Photo categories are:

- **Snapshots through time:** photos of you and your family at the Arboretum through the decades.
- **A special occasion:** photos of those golden moments.
- **Westonbirt before digital:** early images of time at the Arboretum.

Stan's story

Photo taken during the First World War

Stan's parents met in Silk Wood during the First World War. His father, George had to come back from fighting due to injury, and was asked by Sir George Holford to 'look after' the land girls who were working in Silk Wood. Mary, Stan's mother, was one of these girls... she didn't like his Dad much at first because he kept hiding her axe!

Send any photos (the higher the resolution, the better!) and their accompanying stories to photos.westonbirt@forestryengland.uk, or call 0300 067 4784 to arrange a visit to scan a non-digital photo and tell us your story.

Please make sure you include:

- Name (for crediting)
- Photo category
- Year the photo was taken
- Accompanying story
- If you can pinpoint the location at Westonbirt, then even better!
- Please take a moment to read through the terms and conditions of submitting photographs into the Photo-Synthesis memories project. They can be found here: forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/photosynthesis

Deadline for photo submissions 31 March 2019

**All entries will be entered into a prize draw!
Three winners will receive:**

- 1 x adult Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum membership for a year.
- A family ticket (2 x adults and 2 x children) to Enchanted Christmas 2019.





Chloe's story

Photo taken in the 1990's

"Every year as a child up until about the age of 10, I used to come to the Arboretum to see the autumn colour (a familiar story!) I think my dad used it as good way to 'exercise the kids' and used to have us running around every year trying to find the biggest tree, the widest tree and the most colourful tree. I have really fond memories of us all (a family of 4) linking arms to see if we could reach all the way around a tree's trunk."

Moira's story

Photo taken in the Old Arboretum, in the 1980's

"I have great memories of running around pretending to be in an episode of Star Wars, being chased around the bamboo by an invisible Darth Vader!"



Tips for creating the picture perfect shot!



We caught up with one of our volunteer photographers, Brian Martin, to pick up some top tips for budding photographers.

How did you get involved with the Photography Team?

I've always loved photography. In 2017 I applied for the post of Volunteer Photographer at Westonbirt. There are so many different opportunities to take photos of the trees and this amazing landscape, as well as Forest Live concerts and a lot more!

Where are some of your favourite places for taking photos at Westonbirt?

Acer Glade has to be up there, especially in autumn with all the different varieties and colours of maple. Another favourite location of mine is just under the STIHL Treetop Walkway in Silk Wood and the surrounding area.

What are some of your top tips for budding photographers?

1. Remember the rule of thirds, the subject should never be in the centre of the photograph. Imagine that the photograph is broken up by three lines, both horizontal and vertical. The subject of the photo should always sit on one of the 'third' lines.

- 2. Create a feeling of depth** in your photograph by having something in the foreground and something further back.
- 3. When taking pictures of wildlife try to capture some movement**; for example, catching a duck splashing around in water or a bird taking flight.
- 4. Don't be afraid to get started** just because you don't have a great camera; the person behind the lens is much more important than the equipment. When you come to the point when you want to invest, remember you can pick up some pretty good lenses second hand if you shop around a bit.
- 5. Try to get some natural framing in the photo**; for example at Westonbirt I often try to frame the photo with two trees.
- 6. Look at other people's photos for inspiration.** Every photographer has their own unique style, and you sometimes have to do a bit of research to develop your area of interest, e.g. landscape, portraiture etc.
- 7. Join a camera club**; I'm part of a small one, and it's pretty great for building up your confidence when you're just getting started. You'll bat ideas around and learn from other photographers.

Find out how you could use your hobby or passion in a volunteering role at Westonbirt Arboretum.

Have a look at our current volunteering opportunities here:

forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/volunteering

Cows help out with flora and fauna

By Cairn Hurst, Arborist

The grade one listed landscape of Westonbirt is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, including around 236 different non-woody plant species, and requires some careful management to ensure we are looking after everything in the best possible way.



A specially tailored sward management plan not only tells our Tree Team which areas of the Arboretum to mow but how and when to mow it. We also have dedicated teams of volunteers who monitor and report on key management species across the site throughout the year.

Cattle play an important part in the management of grass on The Downs. Unlike horses and sheep that tend to nibble grass very close to the ground, cows are selective grazers; tearing clumps of grass to leave a more varied sward height and patches of bare soil. This, in addition to the soil disturbance created by their hooves, means a more diverse habitat for flora and fauna.

For the second year running we are delighted to welcome organic native rare breed Gloucester cattle on site, which you might have seen throughout the autumn, winter and spring months grazing on The Downs. Between late spring and early autumn we have a break

from grazing, to allow plants to flower and set seed. Gloucester cattle are one of our oldest and rarest native breeds, characterised by a white stripe running down their back, over the tail and covering their bellies. They produce high quality milk (traditionally used for making Single Gloucester and Stinking Bishop cheese) from relatively low quality grazing. They are a docile breed, and prefer to be outside all year round; perfect for life on The Downs.

Recent years have seen an increase in some weed species of grass, and a noticeable decline in some of our wildflower species. Managed grazing by cattle occurs on other similar sites with healthy wildflower populations and we hope we will soon see the benefits of having these lovely animals as a regular feature here at Westonbirt.

If you are out walking on The Downs please remember to keep any dogs on leads and close all gates behind you. We don't want cows running riot through Silk Wood or the Old Arboretum!

Interesting facts!



250 acres of grass cut

As part of the sward management plan the Tree Team cut around 250 acres of grass each year, several times over!



Organic cow poo is good news!

Some non-organic worming products have a residual effect in cow poo and negatively affect non-target insect populations – so organic cow poo is good news for the insects and other invertebrates here at Westonbirt.



Wildflower protection

Since the 1930s the Cotswolds has seen a 96% decline in wildflower rich grassland, an eye-opening statistic that highlights the importance of The Downs at Westonbirt.

The Friends of Westonbirt team

Chief Executive Mike Coe

Business Officer Lorna Butcher

Finance Officer Maureen Nibset

**Membership & Communications
Marketing Manager** Jane Shute

Marketing & Communications Officer Jo Murray

Membership Officer Bev Starkings

Membership Administrator Kelly Hough

Fundraising Officer Hannah Litherland

Fundraising Administrator 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

HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

Giles Coode-Adams OBE

Sir Henry Elwes KCVO

Hon Beth Rothschild

Sir Crispin Tickell GCMG, KCVO

President

Christopher Brickell CBE

Vice Presidents

Roger Busby CBE

Peregrine Pollen

Trustees

Mike Mintram (Chair)

John Hammond (Vice Chair)

Christine Burt

Gavin Grant

Margaret Headen

Martyn Smith

Mike Howarth

Malcolm Potter

Beth Weston



Arboretum opening times

9am–5pm (last paid entry March – Nov 4.30pm)
(Dec – Feb 4pm) 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 4853

volunteer.westonbirt@forestryengland.uk

Westonbirt Shop

Open every day 9.30am – 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

Hacienda Classical

+ Special Guests

Experience the tunes once played in Manchester's legendary Hacienda club, performed by a full orchestra, choir and vocalists!



IT DOESN'T GET MUCH
BETTER THAN THIS

THE INDEPENDENT



A MEMORABLE AND
UPLIFTING EXPERIENCE

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS



THE ATMOSPHERE
WAS ELECTRIC

THE TIMES



PROBABLY THE BEST
RAVE SINCE 1997

NME

16_06_19

WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM
TETBURY, GLOS

TICKETS:
03000 680 400

BUY ONLINE/INFO:
FORESTRYENGLAND.UK/MUSIC